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Enthusiastic welcome for Genscher in Washington



How can the Germans, so recently felt to be troublemakers in the Western alliance, prepared to quit in a blaze of Gorbachov euphoria, now suddenly be tried and trusted friends with whom the superpower America is keen to share its leadership role?

This is a question many will have asked who saw for themselves with surprise what an extraordinarily civil welcome German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was given in Washington.

There wasn't a trace of suspicion. Herr Genscher came as a friend and was treated *accordingly. Accusations of* double-dealing and unreliability seemed to have been forgotten.

The idea that he was a smooth customer and a skilled tactician seemed to have paled, giving way to almost respectful recognition of him as an experienced Ostpolitik hand with a wider view where concepts were concerned.

There are several possible explanations for this swift change of mind. President Bush and his closest advisers evidently misread the situation in the Federal Republic, risking a confrontation on the missiles issue. It could have been avoided if State Department experts had gained access in time to the highest levels, where Secretary of State Baker prefers to rely on a small group of top officials.

After Nato Foreign Ministers had struggled to arrive at a compromise formula in Brussels this information gap was largely bridged. The Americans have always been impressed when people stand firm.

President Bush himself provided his Nato allies with an opportunity of doing so by presenting disarmament proposals of his own, thereby grasping the initiative and enabling the West to ponder over a political response to change in the East.

He must have felt something verging on gratitude for the political pressure that forced him to act. His move was an *undeniable success.*

A "must" in terms of sound political instinct, it was hailed as a courageous step forward and a resolute demonstration of leadership.

As this applause proved him right, the winners include those who urged him to make his move. The Bush administration has found its German Nato ally to be a valuable aide in making full use of the opportunities presented by the reform movement in Eastern Europe and in striking while the iron of Mr Gorbachov's new thinking is still hot.

If Washington casts Bonn as a bona fide partner, however, the Germans must be clear as to the reasons why. Otherwise disappointment and fresh irritation will soon surface.

The Bush administration is keen not to allow a long-term dispute within Nato jeopardise its status as the leading Western power at a time when the cold war seems to have been won and the West ought to be preparing for a fresh "post-war" era, complete with fresh opportunities.

On his recent visit to Washington the SPD leader, Hans-Jochen Vogel, may have found that all doors were open to him, but the Americans are keen to ensure peace and quiet in Nato and would prefer the present Bonn government to another, less stable coalition.



Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) and President Bush at the White House. (Photo: AP)

This German-American rapprochement is due to more than mere tactical considerations. The US administration agrees with Bonn that the prospects of ending the division of Europe have never been better.

"The cold war will be over when the division of Europe is over," says President Bush, and it sounds like a maximum demand. It is, however, an objective in which he must assume no-one to be more keenly interested than the Germans, who have been hardest hit by the division of Europe.

So he has sought their assistance in the attempt to promote the process of democratisation in Eastern Europe and to make it irreversible.

That is why he is banking on a trend toward political pluralism that is tantamount to communism filing a petition in bankruptcy — and hoping the Kremlin leaders will tolerate it.

Yet the West would do well to give rise to no illusions — and to harbour none. If developments turn turtle and the Soviet Union feels its security interests are threatened, there will no longer be any question of ending the division of Europe or of normalising relations.

The Federal Republic might even find itself forced to slam on the anchors if the Bush administration were to shown signs of impatience.

The United States has no intention of intervening in Eastern Europe in return for being allowed to take up residence in Mr Gorbachov's common European house; intervention could all too easily be interpreted as an attempt at destabilisation.

Washington could, however, urge Bonn to combine its less suspicious assistance with the demand for more reforms and greater freedom.

Bonn's Ostpolitik, which is geared more to quiet, behind-the-scenes diplomacy and to gradual progress, might then yet give cause for a fresh transatlantic dispute.

Jürgen Koar

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 26 June 1989)

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Monetary union, social charter head Euro summit agenda

With its emphasis on the "social dimension" of the internal market and on commitment to economic and monetary union, the Madrid European Community summit seems sure to have been another fighting event.

Since last year's Hanover summit, Bonn and other member-governments have urged the adoption of a social charter of minimum welfare standards to alleviate fears, in more advanced member-countries, of "social dumping" in post-1992 Europe.

Hesitantly, the European Commission, led by its French Socialist president, Jacques Delors, drew up a charter of basic social rights for consideration by Community leaders at the Madrid summit.



M. Delors' hesitation seems to have been due to the stated objections of Mrs Thatcher to what she sees as the introduction of Marxism by the back door via Brussels. The social charter has yet to meet with Mrs Thatcher's approval.

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl, however, has promised Ernst Breit, general secretary of the DGB, Germany's Düsseldorf-based trades union confederation, to insist on minimum Community standards for employees' rights.

Unless Mrs Thatcher felt obliged by the Tories' rout at the Euro-polls to give way on this issue, the Madrid summit seemed likely to vote 11-1 against her on the social charter.

Much the same line-up seemed likely on economic and monetary union. It may come as a surprise to many Germans to learn that Chancellor Kohl is firmly resolved to move forward in a direction that will end in the deutschemark and other national currencies being replaced by a common European currency, the ECU.

France and other member-countries are sick and tired of having their economic and monetary policies prescribed by the Frankfurt-based Bundesbank.

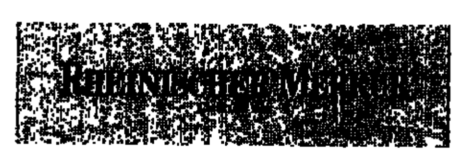
Contrary to a widespread impression, the Bundesbank has no fundamental objections to this political objective. The terms are what interests it more.

The Delors report, commissioned at Hanover, envisages a three-stage programme. The Bundesbank's Karl Otto

Continued on page 2

■ EUROPE

New parliament's blocs not quite what they seem



Old Strasbourg hands such as the German leaders of the Socialist and Christian Democratic groups in the European Assembly, Rudi Arndt (SPD), and Egon Klepsch (CDU), either shake their heads in disbelief or revealingly prefer to keep their own counsel in response to media reports of a left-wing landslide in the European Parliament.

In reality there has not been much change, as will be seen on 25 July when the president, or Speaker, is elected.

That is the only vote in which the left-right divide on which a number of German commentators with little idea of how the European Parliament works are harping in connection with the 18 June Euro-elections is at all relevant.

Leaving aside the spectacular snub the British electorate gave Mrs Thatcher, whose Conservatives lost 14 seats to Labour, the Socialist camp has hardly changed.

Herr Arndt's group lost seven seats in five countries and gained eight in another five, while in Luxembourg there was no change.

The Socialist group now has 181 seats, as against 166, with 14 or 15 newcomers from Britain.

The European People's Party, as the *Christian Democrats are known in* Strasbourg, has in fact gained seats even though both German TV channels saw it as the loser.

The Christian Democrats lost seats in three countries: Germany, Ireland and Portugal, with the nine CDU/CSU losses in Germany weighing heavily in comparison with two losses in Ireland and one in Portugal.

Yet in Belgium, Greece, Italy and Portugal the European People's Party won seven seats.

The 15 Spanish Christian Democrats have switched allegiance from the Conservative to the EPP group. They were fed up with Mrs Thatcher's approach.

The election night confusion was due to European Parliament officials basing their revised figures on the groupings as they had existed in the outgoing Assembly.

Every MEP must now specify by the inaugural session of the new Parliament which group he or she belongs to. Says a somewhat secretive Egon Klepsch: "I am now working on the assumption that we will be at least 125 strong."

So the line-up should be: Socialists plus 14, Christian Democrats plus 12.

Those who argue that Green gains (the Rainbow group) automatically strengthen the Left are wide of the mark.

Members of the outgoing Rainbow group ranged from extreme left-wing German fundamentalists and Danish anti-Common Marketeers to the odd regional representative and *Realo* Greens with whom centre groups might be prepared to cooperate.

Adding 10 or 12 gains to the Rainbow group's previous 20 seats is not going to make the Greens any more homogenous.

Nine French Greens, led by Antoine Waechter from Alsace, and the Flemish Agalev group are not just *Realos;* they feel poles apart from the Socialists.

They might back the Left in the vote for presidency of the Assembly, but that is all.

The Communists have lost ground yet again. In 1984 they felt their 48 seats were a catastrophe; they now have only 44. In Spain and Portugal they gained one seat each, but in Italy and France *they lost five and three respectively.*

Ideological differences between the Italians and the French have led in the past to the Communist group seldom voting uniformly.

There is no reason why they should now contribute toward a stable left-wing bloc. The Italian Communists have frequently sided with the centre parties.

The Liberals lost two seats, but the re-entry of Germany's Free Democrats into the European Parliament will strengthen their hand.

The Gaullist-led group has been hard hit. It had 29 members in the outgoing Assembly. Depending how previous allies side, its strength in the new Assembly could be down to 21.

It would be an exaggeration to argue that right-wing extremists have made sensational gains. Were it not for the German Republicans, they would have lost ground.

The French National Front held on to its 10 seats. The Italian neo-Fascists lost one of their five seats.

They, plus six Republicans and a *Flemish nationalist, would total 21* and be no more influential than France's M. Le Pen or the Rainbow group has been in the past.

The real losers at the Euro-polls were the Conservatives, who are constantly confused by German commentators with the Christian Democrats.

Their strength is down from 66 to 33: minus the Spaniards, two out of four Danes and 14 British Tories.

As the majority of British Conservative MEPs, Lord Plumb first and foremost, are far more European in outlook than their party leadership in London, they are widely felt — by many Social Democrats, for instance, — to have been unfairly penalised.

So the swing to Labour should widen the gap within the Conservative Party and lead to even more trenchant criticism of "No. 10" by British industry.

A number of issues must now be settled behind closed doors in Strasbourg. Who is to be the new president? That, inevitably, is the issue that is most keenly debated.

The president attends European Community summit conferences. He signs the Community's budget. Despite the strictly limited powers the European Parliament is agreed to have, the Community's budget is not valid until he signs it.

The president also represents the European Parliament all over the world. Lord Plumb's visit to Mr Gorbachov, for instance, made a substantial contribution toward the improvement in relations between Comecon countries and the European Parliament.

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has announced his intention of standing for president, but he stands little chance. The EPP candidate will be Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans.

However, the Socialists feel it ought now to be their turn. In 1984 their candidate, Baron Crespo of Spain, lost to Britain's Lord Plumb by only four votes.

The Socialists consist of those who are keen to secure the presidency at any cost and those who think, more soberly, of the Assembly's daily grind. The latter could well prevail.

The Socialist *International* and European Socialist leaders are to meet on 28 June. A proposition will be made to the EPP group with which, as the largest centre group, the Socialists have collaborated successfully in the past.

Their proposition could be a Socialist president from 1989 till 1992, followed until 1994 by M. Tindemans. If the EPP accepted this proposal, all other candidates would be outsiders.

They aren't bound to do so. The period between now and 1992 will be of crucial importance for the *single* internal market. But what could Giscard offer the Left? Little or nothing.

The minor gains made by right-wing extremists are to be offset, the powerful left wing of the EPP and the Socialists are agreed.

In 1984 French National Front MEPs voted for Lord Plumb. A centre-left alliance would neutralise any such embarrassing prospect and is thus likely, if not definite.

Since the Single European Act came into force a majority (of 260) in the European Parliament has been enough to topple proposals by the European Commission or by member-governments.

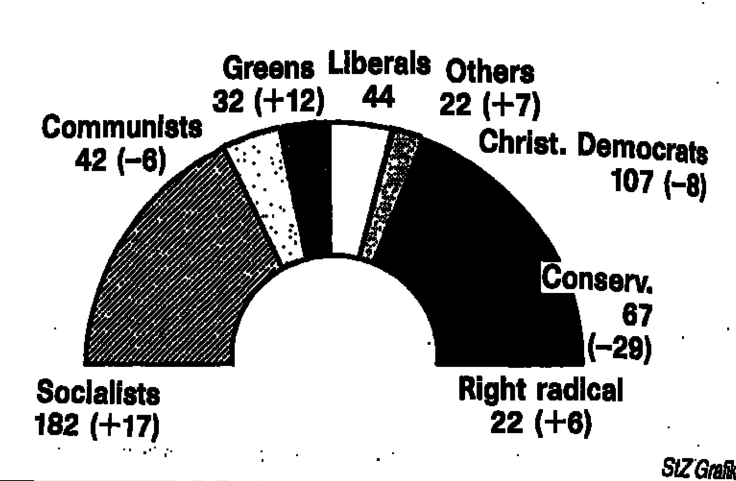
But here too there has been no change. None of the *parliamentary* groups in Strasbourg *can* muster anywhere near this strength.

There are those who will continue *to* argue that the European Parliament *is virtually* powerless and thus doesn't much matter. What they fail to see is that alignments in Strasbourg have little or nothing to do with alignments in Bonn.

"Europe is the winner," says Social Democrat Rudi Arndt. After the rout of the Tories and despite Republican gains there are more pro-Europeans than anti-Europeans among the 518 new MEPs — and more than there were in the outgoing Assembly.

Jürgen Wahl

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 23 June 1989)



Continued from page 1

Pöhl, incidentally, played a leading role in compiling it.

The crucial feature of the programme is that a firm political commitment on all three stages is the prerequisite for the first.

The second stage will make a political realignment of the entire Community virtually inevitable, meaning treaty amendments subject to the approval of all 12 governments and parliaments.

Mrs Thatcher rightly appreciates that in the final stage economic and financial policy would be almost entirely decided by a common government, leaving member-countries sovereign rights in foreign affairs, defence, the law and the arts.

Yet not only British industry and the City have endorsed the idea; even an all-party parliamentary committee at Westminster has come out in favour of a monetary union in addition to the single internal market.

Under this growing pressure Mrs Thatcher seems prepared to consider embarking on the first stage, but without committing herself on the final, political objective.

Yet commitment on this point is what Chancellor Kohl needs if he is to be able to refer to Bundesbank approval in forthcoming disputes with, say, the Bavarian CSU.

Will the Madrid summit, like Milan before it, arrive at majority decisions? That would leave Mrs Thatcher faced with the decision whether to tag along behind the rest of the Community in second gear, as it were.

In autumn 1985 she knuckled under, signing the Single European Act which forms the basis of the internal market.

Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez, who chaired the Council of Ministers in the first half of 1989 in close collaboration with the French, who take over in the chair, was keen to force a decision on both counts.

He is a proud man, determined to join the ranks of the leading members of the Twelve.

All that can be said for sure at this stage is that in December, when President Mitterrand of France hosts the Paris summit, the French leader will be only too happy to force Mrs Thatcher to submission.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 June 1989)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Voting trend in Euro poll raises fears of a 1990 hung parliament in Bonn

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The European election has produced a phenomenon in German politics which many had feared: the advent of a five-party system.

If Germans vote along similar lines in the general election next year, the major parties would have trouble forming a government.

It would mean that neither the existing coalition between the CDU and the FDP nor one between the SPD and the Greens would be enough.

The chairman of the SPD, Hans-Jochen Vogel, says that the conservative union (CDU and CSU) would then only be able to choose between a coalition with the (extreme right-wing) Republicans — which would not be approved by the FDP — and a grand coalition.

Leading CDU and CSU politicians cling to their hopes that the popularity of the Republicans is no more than a passing electoral protest.

They claim that, with the proper political strategy, the conservative union will be able to win back Republican voters (at least 50 per cent of whom previously voted for the CDU or CSU).

This is an oversimplified response. The major people's parties have lost a great deal of their integrative power.

A growing number of voters no longer remain loyal to just one party.

Traditional social milieus, Catholic/denominational on the one hand and trade union/lower middle-class on the other, are disintegrating. The new middle-class is becoming increasingly *significant.*

The structure of German society is rapidly changing; in 1987 there were, for the first time ever, more white-collar workers than blue-collar workers.

The political parties, however, are slow to respond to this process of societal transformation. Analagous trends are also discernible within the big parties themselves.

The membership figures are declining, particularly among the young.

The Junge Union, for example, the youth organisation of the CDU, lost 10,000 members in just eight months. The situation is no better in the SPD, and the trend is hardening.

People are generally trying to find ways of giving vent to their dissatisfaction with traditional political parties following the numerous scandals and the permanent state of horse-trading for power and party jobs.

Voters initially turned to the left, to the Greens, to channel their frustration. Despite all the predictions the Greens became an established party.

Disappointment and social downgrading (the Republicans recruit most of their support from lower-class voters) have now made voters turn to the right. This new right-wing grouping will also consolidate its position.

The Republicans will now step up its activities on a nationwide scale, setting up groups at a local level.

More and more people will openly express their support for the party, which can expect to sustain its success — in particular in southern Germany.

The argument that the turnout for the European Parliament election was low cannot explain away the swing to the right.

Although opinion pollsters discovered that the New Right is rejected as undemocratic by roughly half of the population its "hard core" is extremely active and knows how to motivate its supporters.

What is more, 26 per cent of the population feel that the other parties should not simply ignore the Republicans. After all, they have been legally elected and have so far done nothing which is undemocratic.

Public opinion of this kind indicates the problems which lie ahead for the big political parties.

Both the argument of the low election turnout and the theory that the Republican voters simply wanted to scare the other parties into changing their ways are inadequate.

The CDU and CSU must face up to the fact that the situation will not change appreciably before the 1990 general election (not to mention the preceding *Land* elections).

Their popularity has taken a serious knock; it is about time that they accept this fact. The CSU's pronounced setback shows that the problem not only relates to the CDU.

The Republicans became the second most powerful political grouping in a number of towns and districts in Bavaria.

The election outcome for the CDU was not quite as catastrophic in Baden-Württemberg; however, the fact that the CDU lost 11 per cent and the Republicans gained 8.7 per cent of the vote (this was the first time the Republicans took part in an election in this *Land*) speaks for itself.

Both the CDU and the CSU have every reason to be self-critical.

The marked political talent of Franz Josef Strauss was able to cover up the looming disaster for a long time. Both parties are now forced to accept political realities.

The explanation that the leader of the Republicans, Franz Schönhuber, does have a certain media appeal sounds like a bad joke.

The reasons for his success are much more far-reaching and relate to more than the party's stance on foreigners.

Other factors are social problems, the rejection of the European Parliament due to fears of loss of sovereignty, and the deathly hush on the issue of the German Question.

Many will say that Chancellor Helmut Kohl has again managed to somehow muddle through. Insofar as this relates to the fruitless discussion about his chancellorship this is correct.

The small margin which separates the conservative union and the SPD saved the day.

The Bonn coalition will benefit from the fact that the FDP also managed to move into the European Parliament without the help of the *Zweitstimme*, the second vote each party otherwise has in elections in the Federal Republic of Germany.

This has improved and perhaps consolidated the situation.

The question is, however, how much relief can this limited stabilisation at a low level provide?

How powerful are the forces at the fringes of the party-poltical spectrum and how great is the desire for further "warnings"?

Dissatisfaction was the primary motive of many German voters in the Euro poll. The future governability of the Federal Republic of Germany is at stake.

None of the two political camps has a workable majority. This is the real problem, not the never-ending discussion about the Chancellor's future.

Fritz Ullrich Fack

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 June 1989)

Factors behind the rise of the Republicans

The Euro election has revealed a political North-South dichotomy which roughly corresponds to economic disparity.

In places where the CDU and CSU were powerful, for example, in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, they lost a disproportionately high number of votes to the extreme right-wing Republicans.

In other words, the new right-wing party is primarily the conservative union's problem.

The theory propounded in the wake of the local government elections in Hesse that the Republicans were strengthened by conservative party demands for a tighter policy on foreigners is too superficial.

A great deal suggests that the increased popularity of the Republicans is connected with factors of prosperity and a successful process of economic structural change.

Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg and Hesse are three of the most prosperous *Länder.*

Unemployment is a lot lower in these states than, for example, in North Rhine-Westphalia or Lower Saxony.

In southern Germany quite a few voters feel that they can afford to give "their" party a warning so as to force them to become more conservative and exert more pressure in the Bonn coalition.

These voters are not only toying with their ballot papers but demand that the CDU and CSU stop letting themselves be kept in check by the FDP.

The behaviour of the electorate can also be interpreted as a sign of displeasure with Helmut Kohl, who has been unable to capitalise on his "Chancellor bonus."

In addition, there is a smaller group of voters who are indeed confronted by existential problems.

They are homeless or are unable to find a job and put the blame for their plight on ethnic German immigrants or foreigners.

This group of voters tends to turn away from the SPD, which also lost votes to the Republicans — albeit nowhere near as many as the CDU and CSU.

Nevertheless, the European Parliament election was not — contrary to predictions — an anti-Kohl election.

The CDU/CSU just about managed to remain the most powerful party, and the FDP achieved its election goal of moving back into the Strasbourg assembly.

This has a stabilising effect on the coalition as well as on the Chancellor's position.

There will be no Kohl discussion, especially since those politicians thought to be waiting in the wings as possible successors, Lothar Späth and Theo Waigel, suffered heavy losses in the election. Kohl's rivals have, for the time being at least, been beaten off.

Streibl and Waigel painfully experienced just how successfully Franz Josef Strauss was able to integrate the right-wing fringe. Yet even Strauss would have been unable to prevent the Republicans.

A further important aspect for Helmut Kohl is that an SPD-Greens majority is still a distant dream. The Greens stagnated. The Social Democrats lost ground.

The conservative union, therefore, can still observe its new rivals on the right-wing fringe with relative composure.

This is the best remedy against the Republicans, anyway. This party, however, does represent a major challenge.

The CDU/CSU and the SPD should *move closer together, and the FDP* should also seek refuge in this centre alliance.

The traditional parties cannot simply rely on the fact that the Republicans will fail to get the five per cent needed for parliamentary representation in the next general election on account of an expected higher turnout.

Although the reservoir of non-voters will be much smaller the Republicans will still represent a risk to the other parties.

Anke Fuchs, the national business manager of the SPD, has urged the CDU to join forces to win back the voters on the right-wing fringe.

This, however, can only be achieved if the conservative union, the SPD and the FDP jointly tackle the problems which are benefiting the Republicans.

This applies in particular to immigration policy, which many people feels is being handled too liberally. The SPD and FDP will have to reconsider their positions.

Above all, the FDP should realise that the upsurge in popularity for the Republicans could jeopardise its power base.

A decline in the strength of the big people's parties could lead to a loss of possible coalition partners for the FDP.

The FDP would be unable to participate in a coalition between the SPD and the Greens or in a coalition between the CDU/CSU and the Republicans.

The FDP would be drawing the wrong conclusion from the election outcome if it now starts trying to ensure its political survival by promoting its own image in the Bonn coalition at the expense of the its coalition partners.

The parties of the political centre must stick together.

Werner Birkenmaier

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 20 June 1989)

Theo Waigel *may already be regretting* his appointment as Bonn Finance Minister. Pushing through the 1990 budget, for example, is going to be a difficult task.

Waigel's ideas on the budget aren't the same as some of the other members of the Cabinet. They are either unfamiliar with or disapprove of the word "consolidation.".

Waigel got off to a flying start after taking on the finance portfolio. Hardly had he taken office when his tax advisers announced that next year's tax revenue would be DM8.4bn up on the figure forecast in the July 1988 financial plan — despite the discontinuation of the withholding tax!

This is due to the fact that GNP will increase much faster in real terms than officially predicted *and that prices will also* rise at a more rapid pace.

A one per cent increase in inflation gives the Federal Government, the *Länder* and local *governments an additional* tax revenue of DM5bn (the Federal Government receiving just under half of this figure).

The fact that Waigel has to pay DM4.1bn less than originally expected to the European Community is also a comforting factor.

This reduction primarily results from the drought catastrophe in the USA, which led to a sharp increase in the world market prices for food, and from the rising dollar exchange rate.

Both developments reduced the refunds on exports in Europe designed to offset the difference to world market prices.

Waigel, therefore, would probably have no trouble financing the third stage of the tax reform — if only the other ministers had the same ideas on how budget funds should be allotted.

Education Minister Jürgen Möllemann

■ BONN

A new Minister of Finance wrestles to balance budget



wants a 20 per cent increase in his budget, first and foremost to create university jobs for 10,000 young scientists.

Möllemann was already granted an increase *by Waigel's predecessor as* Finance Minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg.

Politicians specialising in matters relating to the family have also voiced their demands.

They managed to obtain an increase in child allowance for the second child and a prolongation of the upbringing allowance.

The increase in child allowance accounts for DM418m next year, since it only takes effect as of 1 July. In 1991 it will burden Treasury funds during the entire year.

The fact that Waigel has to nevertheless pay DM1.4bn more than the figure envisaged in the federal budget is due to the unexpected increase in the number of births.

In addition to the prolongation of the upbringing allowance by six months this birth upturn explains why the Finance Minister has to pay out an additional DM800m for child upbringing.

Housing Minister Gerda Hasselfeldt also felt that her ministry was entitled to a fair share of the additional revenue.

She was able to mobilise DM1.25bn for publicly subsidised low-cost housing, DM950m more than earmarked for next *year in the federal budget.*

The new minister is fighting to obtain even more money, regardless of the fact that low-cost housing is in a sorry state and basically amounts to a waste of money.

The Federal Labour Office has turned into a bottomless pit.

The budget originally envisaged a figure of DM2.8bn for this item — mainly because of the growing number of ethnic German immigrants.

An additional DM1.6bn is already needed, leaving a total of DM4.4bn.

This is the price the government has to pay for the thoughtless way in which it assigned tasks costing billions of marks to the Federal Labour Office in the eighth amendment to the Labour Promotion Act at the beginning of 1988.

Although this provided relief for the federal budget it was only temporary.

In the end, Waigel had to fill the gap *left in this field by his predecessor.*

It is hoped that the assistance for the long-term unemployed agreed upon during the "Blüm round of negotiations" (Norbert Blüm is the Bonn Labour Minister) will help achieve this objective.

Bonn will provide employment subsidies amounting to DM1.5bn to induce firms to hire persons who have been unemployed for a longer period.

The 1990 federal budget will have to finance several hundred million marks. *This relief campaign merely helps the* government fill a gap it previously created itself.

The Federal Labour Office had to drastically cut back its qualification programme, a major reason being the increase in Federal tasks.

This move "created" precisely those unemployed who now have to be helped. It is extremely difficult to detect the meaning of such to-ings and fro-ings.

There are *also demands for more* money for development aid and the construction of trunk roads. The pension insurance scheme costs the Federal Government at least DM600, coal mining DM280m, and the postal reform DM275m more than planned.

And, finally, Defence Minister Stoltenberg has also placed a list of demands on Waigel's table.

He needs over DM100m more than originally planned for the European Fighter Aircraft, the costs of which were originally expected to amount to DM670m next year.

This "superbird" is turning into an extremely expensive affair: this year alone there has been an upward revision of its total costs from DM6.6bn — over a period of six years — to DM7.1bn.

It is doubtful whether Stoltenberg will be given a hearing for his other demands to equip the Bundeswehr.

Waigel can dismiss such demands by using the same arguments Stoltenberg himself used when he was Finance Minister. Stoltenberg is in a bad negotiating position.

If cuts cannot be made in other fields it already seems probable that the Federal Government will spend 3.2 per cent more next year than in 1989.

Without the recently adopted supplementary budget for the current year the corresponding figure would have been 3.6 per cent (1989: plus 5.8 per cent).

Everyone wants money from him.. Finance Minister Waigel.

(Photo: Poly-Press)

The Bonn coalition government *only* recently agreed to keep the spending increase below three per cent. According to the federal budget *it is supposed* to be two per cent.

Waigel already considers himself lucky that he will be able to limit next year's net borrowing figure to DM33bn — as opposed to the figure of DM36bn provided for in the federal budget.

His predecessor Stoltenberg referred to a once-only "slip-up" after being forced to take the new borrowing figure of the Federal Government up to DM35.4bn last year. This year, however, the net borrowing figure will again increase by DM27.8bn.

Next year's forecast figure of DM33bn could turn out to be too low if the economy does not develop as smoothly as desired or if the Finance Minister infers from the latest decision by the Federal Constitutional Court on the limitation of *public debt that the increase in the* transfer to the Federal Government of Bundesbank profits, from a figure of DM5bn this year to a figure of DM7bn in 1990, is no longer permissible.

In this case the new borrowing figure would increase to DM35bn or even DM40bn if the transfer of Bundesbank profits are dropped altogether.

The pace and extent at which Bonn politicians are plunging our country into debt are absolutely irresponsible.

At the end of this *year the Federal* Government will be faced by a mountain of debt amounting to just under DM500bn, a figure which will *increase to* over DM600bn by 1992.

The debt burden will soar from DM32.4bn this year to DM38.5bn in 1992. By then 12.4 per cent of federal spending will be needed just for interest.

As no-one can guarantee that interest rates will not rise this figure may increase even further.

The Federal Government, the *Länder* and the local governments will be confronted by a total debt figure of DM1,000bn. This means at least DM70bn per annum in interest payments alone.

Politicians do not seem to be unduly concerned about these figures; after all, coming generations will have to foot the bill.

Debt servicing will dramatically restrict the scope for spending of our descendants.

This problem will be experienced by a generation which is already proportionately small in relation to the population as a whole and will thus find it extremely difficult to provide for a much larger older generation.

Not to mention the growing problems caused by environmental pollution and the increase in the prices of raw materials.

Heinrich Rieker
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 9 June 1989)

■ INTERVIEW

An historian looks at the United States, the Germans and the new Europe

In 1935 Gordon A. Craig, a 23-year-old *history student, visited* Berlin — and Germany — for the first time. He did so, as he noted in the preface of his book, *The Germans*, to write something definite about the failure of the Weimar Republic. The result was a succession of books, both knowledgeable and readable, including "German History 1866-1945," *The Germans* and *The End of Prussia*. An honorary professor at the Free University, Berlin, Professor Craig is now president of the American Historical Association and is considered one of the best-informed experts on German history. He is here interviewed by Jochen Siemens, *Washington* correspondent of the *Frankfurter Rundschau*.

Question: Incidents such as plane crashes during low-altitude flying and at air shows have recurred over the past year, and views now differ on modernising short-range nuclear missiles to be stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany. To what extent are Germans in the 40-year-old Federal Republic in control of what goes on in their own country?

Answer: That is a genuine, serious problem, and I'm not sure how it can be solved. It is partly rooted in a psychological peculiarity of the United States and, sad to say, in the way foreign policy is conducted.

It gives me no pleasure to be critical of my own country, which I feel has much good to its credit. But it must be said that the United States, *for the larger part of its* history by far, has not been bound by alliances.

It doesn't readily admit to not liking alliances and, as a result, to often behaving as though they didn't exist.

America consults its allies as little as possible and is unusually incapable of seeing matters from its allies' point of view.

I believe, for instance, that matters such as the mutual benefit that is derived from an alliance are seen in America solely in terms of dollars and cents, like current account comparisons, and seldom if ever in terms of the intangibles one must also bear in mind if an alliance is to function.

Besides, we have a tendency to be easily irritated, saying: "Why the devil do they do that? Can't they understand that we're protecting them?" What we forget is that we are protecting each other.

People over here have no idea of what air show crashes, low-altitude flying and damage to farmland and crops mean.

Yet we must bear them in mind, just as we must realise that the Federal Republic's geographical location as a war theatre is enough to make Germans most alarmed and to rob them of their peace of mind, not to say their sleep.

We simply can't imagine what it is like because it has never happened to us. Never.

Then there is so-called modernisation. Are we not cheating a little there? Are we not smuggling in a new weapon system under the cover of "modernisation"?

What we want is to station a weapon that is capable of reaching targets in the Soviet Union. That isn't modernisation. If I were a German I should be most alarmed and might well share the feelings that so upset Arnulf Baring in his book *Neuer Großenwahn*.

I don't know how this state of affairs can be changed. It hard to make the position clear, even to government officials, let alone to a general public who aren't interested in foreign policy and seldom read anything in the press about Germany except when the Germans do something we can be riled about.

We have reached a decisive point in US foreign policy. We are progressing in extremely slow motion toward new realities.

The going is slow because it is much easier for many people, and for many companies with a great deal of money at stake, to carry on believing the Russians are very bad people. But, as George Kennan says, the Russian Revolution is over and we face a new era.

My impression is that the Europeans are adjusting to the change and are growing more and more annoyed with the United States.

A whole range of unwelcome developments could occur as a result, from realignments in the alliance to much more stridents calls in this country for US troops to be withdrawn from Europe.

Q: Isolationism in a new guise?

A: *I can't believe we are reverting to isolationism.* We have too many international commitments for that, and our economy is too interlinked for us to be able to dream of a Fortress America.

We are in the middle of an intermediate, grey zone, and if we're lucky we will be heading for a new international system in which the superpowers have a less important part to play, with a more even balance being struck between several poles, plus a more important role for the United Nations.

That would be ideal. But it all depends on so much. Such as how the Gorbachov revolution progresses, what it means in Eastern Europe, how it influences Western Europe, how the United States responds to it all and how the sum total influences the pacts in Europe.

I feel that if a poll were held today in the Federal Republic on whether to quit Nato a majority would be against it. It is only a rhetorical question. Yet we might, on the other hand, be heading for a world in which scrapping pacts would be a very good idea indeed.

Q: How does German reunification figure in all these new developments and possibilities?

A: I stand by my view that the question of reunification will be solved together with other issues, above all by the passage of time and by fresh generations.

It will, as it were, seem less important, just as many old issues will appear outmoded in a new European order. The German problem will be packed in with other problems, and once they are solved, it will hopefully have been solved too.

One day people might wonder what had happened to German reunification, only to realise that the question no longer arises because it has already come about in all but name. De facto if not de jure.

The question now is how to set about building the best possible new Europe. Depending on what happens in the Soviet Union, the West will definitely be an attractive proposition for the East.

And it will be so without the John Foster Dulles idea of old, his: "We are strong, so you'd do better to join us."

Yet that doesn't answer a question that is increasingly preoccupying the Germans, the question: "Who are we?"

Inasmuch as the Allies' influence is brought to bear heavily on crucial issues, *along "will you at long last take these weapons, confound it, they're good for you"* lines, Germans are bound to feel they are no-one and count for nothing.

If I am no-one here, then maybe I can find someone somewhere else who will help me to become someone. And that is the most pressing reason for dismantling the power blocs.

Q: Long and at times alarming articles have lately appeared in the American press analysing the election gains of the Republicans and the NPD. How do you assess the development of democracy in the Federal Republic?

A: I have lately spent a great deal of time on 19th century Liberalism and written a book about Zürich in the age of Liberalism, and one point is that whatever you may feel about materialism these people worked on the assumption that they represented, and were responsible for, the entire country.

In Britain, for instance, the Labour Party was not founded until 1900 and gained strength when the Liberals be*trayed working-class interests.*

Not until the last two decades of the 19th century and the fresh economic problems that came with them did the working class begin to realise that it was disadvantaged by the system and start to organise itself.

Liberalism of old was destroyed at the same time by a new sense of self-interest that triggered a polarisation of society.

But until then the Liberals thought in terms of society as a whole, which is just *how the parties in Bonn don't think.* The CDU/CSU operates more like the Reagan administration did, cold-heartedly and calculatingly.

In Germany the moralistic view that people who are badly off have only themselves to blame is not as widespread as it is in the United States. Germans don't invariably feel that anyone who really wants to work will find a job.

Some do, of course, because labour ethics and religion are combined on both sides of the Atlantic. A combination of coldness, calculation and thoughtlessness exists both in the United States and in the Federal Republic.

I have recently been more in Munich than in Berlin. I like Munich, but it is a terribly rich city that has been yuppified over the years. Everything is so elegant that one wonders where the poor people are; they must be somewhere.

I feel more at ease in Berlin, where you *come across all strata of society. In Munich* they have vanished somewhere or other in the world of excess profit and excess consumption.

Everyone has the latest model of everything, and that is a sign of the two-thirds society, as are the Republicans and the NPD.

So far nothing much has appeared in the press about them, but if they gain more support we will soon be told that National Socialism of old has reared its ugly head again.

I don't for a moment believe that to be the case. It is more a matter of the two-thirds society.

When people are increasingly disillusioned by the parties in power they will want to get their own back, and how better to do it than to vote for parties such as the Republicans? Schönhuber's protest vote includes erstwhile SPD voters.

Q: So are these election results not a continuation of the longstanding German tradition of turning to authoritarian parties but a response to parties that fail to deal with what people feel are their problems?

A: Yes, I think so. That is change, and I'm an optimist and see it as a sign of democracy, just as in the days when the Greens began.

There was a great deal of nonsense written in the American press, but it was in fact a sign of grassroots democracy, confused perhaps, lacking in uniform motives, but the idea was to get things moving and to agitate against established parties that had held power for so long that they no longer realised what the real problems were and no longer solved them.

I wish we had a Green Party in the United States, especially when I consider my own party, the Democrats, who for 10 or 15 years have tried to be the better Republicans.

Q: How do you rate the romantic tradition in German politics?

A: Many US observers have argued that the Greens are a continuation of this tradition. *Die Zeit*, the Hamburg weekly, did so too for a while.

Naturally they are romantic with their desire to revert to the simple life and to genuine emotions, but they are unlike the romantics of old who abhorred politics and kept out of it until they felt out on a limb and then said they ought to be the leaders of the people.

They hadn't learnt a single political lesson, whereas the Greens are in the midst of learning.

They have enlisted enough support to poll five per cent, the threshold for parliamentary representation. Let's call it realistic romanticism.

The democratic process is working as I see it. I am still optimistic. Forty years after the foundation of the Federal Republic the scars of the past are and will remain perceptible, but there can be no mistaking *the progress that has been made.*

Fundamental work has been done in the Federal Republic, and done well. But many vital problems the next generation faces are ignored.

We are now at a stage in the Kohl era that is reminiscent of the end of the Adenauer era. In both cases the prevailing feeling is that no real headway is being made, that nothing gets done other than that the economic position gets worse.

At the end of the Adenauer era the left-wing APO (short for extra-parliamentary Opposition, later to become the class of '68) and the right-wing NPD appeared on the scene. This time it has been the Republicans and the NPD.

The only difference as I see it is that in those days the ideological orientation was much stronger than it is today.

Q: A growing problem nowadays is that of confidence, the confidence of the governed in their governors, a problem that is *repeatedly apparent in connection with* large-scale technological projects. To what extent does this problem constitute a danger to democracy?

A: When you look back at the full 40 years of the Federal Republic I think you can say that people had confidence in Adenauer. Not everyone. But on balance there was a feeling that he was a man to be trusted to do the best for everyone.

That was at a time when the democratic spirit was not very strongly developed, and one reason why Adenauer loomed so large was that he was the last of the authoritarians.

He reminded people of the good in the past while at the same time standing for democratic values.

And when he became too authoritarian in his later years, in connection with the Spiegel affair, for instance, there was an uproar.

That was the clearest sign of a function-

Continued on page 8

■ TRADE

Soviet Union: the magic term is 'joint venture'

Deutsches Allgemeines SONNTAGSBLATT

A sub-title has been written for the new chapter which has opened up in Soviet-German relations. It reads: deeper economic cooperation.

The joint statement issued during Soviet leader Gorbachov's visit to Bonn refers to extensive economic cooperation including new forms of cooperation.

The term is "joint venture," It is a term which does indeed exert a fascinating influence on German capital, a lot more of which should now start flowing into the Soviet Union.

Two agreements signed at the same time are intended to ensure that funds going into the Soviet Union are subject to some conditions: an investment-protection agreement should make it possible to transfer capital and remit profits without limitation. It includes clauses covering, for example, compensation in expropriation cases.

A second agreement, dealing with cooperation in training specialists and managers from Soviet industry, should help make Soviet managers more capable of dealing with the new possibilities opening up under perestroika.

Environmental protection, traffic, transportation, aviation, space, inform- ation technology, mechanical engineering, plant construction and tourism are all covered in various agreements.

However, when the federal Economic Affairs Ministry mentions proposals for joining forces for extensions to a new Moscow airport there are obviously no limits to the scope for, and the imagination that can be applied to, economic cooperation, on land, on water and in the air.

The background for the new feeling for cooperation generally, and in joint ventures specifically, is clearly discernible.

Politicians and industrialists in the Federal Republic are hoping that in this way Gorbachov's perestroika policies will be given a free market economy uplift, an uplift which will make the Soviet Union more interesting for the Federal Republic's export-oriented economy.

The Soviet Union has high hopes of gaining access to modern technology, the creation of competitive production capacities, better self-supply for domestic markets and new management experience by authorising joint ventures with western capital.

Far-reaching investment protection alone is not the sole means of attracting investors. It has now been confirmed that foreign capital participation in joint ventures can exceed 49 per cent and the manager could be a foreigner. It is also planned to offer tax relief and better statutory industrial conditions.

German industry, pulled here and there between the temptations of future lucrative markets and the disappointments with a planned economy going downhill, have reacted with sceptical; not to say fainthearted euphoria at such offers.

A survey of companies by the Deutsche Wirtschaft organisation's East European affairs committee revealed that companies have no illusions about opportunities for business with the Soviet Union. There are no hopes of quick success.

On trade with the East Bloc, industry sits between two stools, the wobbly planned economy and the still incomplete free market economy.

A banker with much experience in East Bloc trade described this uncomfortable position with the words: the old cannot continue any longer, the new is not functioning yet. Being in between is misery.

To bring this misery (and the misery of those companies involved in trade with Eastern Europe) to an end, politicians and representatives from industry vie with one another with more or less disinterested bits of advice to Soviet reformers. More market freedom, price reform, currency reforms, flexibility, personal responsibility are suggested.

Alfred Herrhausen, chief of Deutsche Bank, expressed himself pragmatically. Unlike others he is certain that the Soviet Union will take advantage of the block credit of DM3bn.

Russian Prime Minister, Nikolai Ryshkov, has revealed to the western world that the Soviet Union has a foreign debt of a surprising DM100bn. Nevertheless Russia is regarded in the West as a first-class debtor.

As is well known credits earn not only interest but also contracts, for West German mechanical engineering, for instance.

Mechanical engineering exports increased 70 per cent in the first four months of this year compared with the same period last year.

Soviet reform politicians will only be able to assess to a limited extent economic coaching from Bonn. The Soviet Union is certainly not equipped for an accelerated installation of free-market economy elements into a moribund planned economy.

In his speech given in Cologne to senior representatives of Federal Republic industry, Gorbachov said that "would be an adventure with dangerous consequences for social stability."

Much water will flow under the bridges spanning the Volga before wonderful prospects become realities. The new chapter on economic relations is already written, but deeds must follow words, Gorbachov said.

Klaus Hofmeier

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 16 June 1989)

German-Soviet trade

As percentage of total German trade

1950 0%
1955 0.5
1955: diplomatic relations established
1961 1.7
1961/62: Berlin Wall built; Cuba crisis
1966 1.1
1969 1.4
1971/72: Treaties with East; Berlin Treaty
1971 1.1
1975 2.5
1981 2.2
1981: Brezhnev visits Fed Rep Ger
1983 2.8
1988 1.6
1989: Gorbachov visits Fed Rep Ger
7737
© Globus

Tools, cranes, shoes plus knives and forks

The number of joint ventures between German and Soviet firms has increased sharply over the past year. And the rate is likely to accelerate, according to a survey by *dpa*, the West German news agency.

Soviet figures talk of 70 deals with German firms. This puts the Federal Republic well ahead of the pack: of the 385 joint ventures so far, 51 involve Finnish firms, 30 American firms and 30 Italian firms. Britain is also deeply involved.

It is estimated the total investment value is DM1.7bn. German investment amounts to DM600m.

Capital participation frequently takes place in the form of deliveries of West German machinery and other items; Soviet partners provide buildings and personnel.

According to the survey, the main difficulties for German firms are investment risks, transfer of profits, deliveries from Russian suppliers, working and travel conditions for western managers and the unfamiliar situation generally of a centralised state economy.

By a West German-Soviet investment promotion and protection agreement, signed during Mikhail Gorbachov's visit to Bonn, German industry is hoping that conditions generally will improve.

The Russians, after all, want to get at western technology and knowhow faster through joint ventures, to improve deliveries to domestic markets and open up export markets.

The first joint venture was initiated in 1987 by the medium-sized mechanical engineering company, Heinemann, from St Georgen, in the Black Forest.

Its partner was Sergo Orshnonikidse, the largest machine tools manufacturers in the Soviet Union.

Since May last year, shoe manufacturers Salamander have been producing jointly with Lenwest Schuhe, Leningrad.

Josef Dazert, a pioneer in East-West business, explained that Lenwest produced 4,000 pairs of shoes daily and was in the black. This year 1.2 million shoes will be produced there. A second venture is operating with the shoe manufacturer Belwest in Witebsk.

Dazert said Salamander had not gone into the Soviet Union "to make a fast mark." Profits could not be remitted back to Germany. Salamander had gone in with long-term considerations in mind. Profits were being reinvested.

Car manufacturers Volkswagen are sounding out possible partners in the Soviet Union. But a company spokesman said that the discussions were at an early stage.

A spokesman for Daimler-Benz said that there were a whole series of future-oriented projects which the company would like to develop in conjunction with the Soviet Union automobile industry. It is possible this would include the building of a saloon car engine.

The spokesman said that discussions were under way about cooperation in the private car sector. Just what these discussions would lead to was not yet clear.

Daimler-Benz did foresee the possibility of technical and know-how transfer in bus building. But at the present there was nothing yet on paper "waiting for signature."

The Liebherr Group has concluded a joint venture with a crane manufacturer in Odessa. The company is already involved in converting SS-20 missile carriages to mobile bases for heavy cranes.

In Bavaria 14 definite agreements have been concluded for closer cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Hertel has announced the establishment of a production joint venture for cutlery steels — Hertel has 10 per cent of the venture. In addition a distribution joint venture in Germany has been agreed on.

At the end of May, Siemens' medical technology division concluded a joint venture with the Soviet Union for medical technology services, employing 50 at first. Siemens has a 60 per cent share in the venture.

Metal company Lurgi and its subsidiaries fancy they have good chances for the sale of raw materials with the restructuring of indutry in the *Soviet* Union.

The company points out that the Soviet Union must be offered financing possibilities, if it is hoped to do anything in Russia, generally offset deals.

At present Lurgi is building a giant natural gas refining plant on the Caspian Sea.

The smallest joint venture involves a Hamburg pub, the Chaika (The Seagull) in the centre of Leningrad: On the German side, three parties are involved: Hamburg's Bavaria-St-Pauli brewery; a Hamburg publican, Broder Drees; and a businessman, Peter Wolf.

The bar sells glasses of cold Astra Pilsener and Jever Pilsener beer to thirsty Russians.

dpa/vwd

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 14 June 1989)

Editorial footnote: The Chaika is an interesting experiment. Payment is only in foreign currency at official rates of exchange. Hence, the great majority of customers are not Russian, but tourists and businessmen. The serving staff are Russian. The smart wood-panelled interior and the fittings have clearly been all brought in from Germany — the cash register is from Siemens, for example. The beer is cold and excellent, in contrast to the Russian beer, which tastes pretty much like apple juice that has begun to ferment. The taste of Jever Pils is starting to catch on. One Leningrad taxi driver rejected a fare from two tourists from Hamburg in favour of two cans of Jever from the Chaika.

■ THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

Volkswagen looks to an ex-Ford man to improve its performance



In the early days of his career, Daniel Goeudevert just loved cars. There was no way he was going to be a soap salesman.

A few years later, he had changed his mind, saying: "There are more important things in life than making cars for other people."

He had decided to do "something entirely different." So, on 1 May this year, he resigned as board chairman at Ford of Cologne and cheerfully announced that: "From Saturday I will be plain Daniel Goeudevert again, and we shall see what becomes of him."

But, a month later, Goeudevert, 47, had another job lined up. On 12 July Volkswagen's supervisory board will rule on whether to appoint him to the board of directors, in charge of buying and logistics.

The present director in charge of this sector, Horst Münzner, reaches retirement age at the end of the year.

It is not the first time Volkswagen's chief executive officer, Carl H. Hahn, has tried to recruit the imaginative French-born Goeudevert.

In 1987 he asked him whether he would be prepared to take over from Wolfgang Habbel as head of Audi in Ingolstadt. He wasn't interested.

This time he is. Goeudevert, born in Reims, France, with a Flemish name, has just been through a watershed in his life.

After eight years at the helm of Ford of Cologne he saw no prospect of further progress with Ford even though he had brought the company's German division out of the red.

Under his management Ford of Cologne has become one of the most profitable carworks in Europe, with a 5.6-per-cent return on turnover.

He had left his wife and family and linked up with a former sweetheart, Gabriele Abraham.

At 47 he wanted to start again from scratch: to write a book, to set up a management training college and to sell his services as a consultant.

"If you buy me," he said, "you must buy my ideas too."

His ideas are certainly unusual. He and biocybernetics specialist Frederic Vester have drawn up transport plans envisaging cars as being serviceable as short-haul vehicles but rail and air travel as preferable over long distances.

Pointing out the contradiction to which taxicabs testify, he notes that noisy, bulky, high-pollution, carcinogenic diesel engines are most frequent in the city, where compact, quiet, pollution-controlled vehicles are what is required.

He is a great believer in high-roof models such as the Nissan Prairie, the Mitsubishi Space Wagon and the Renault Espace.

Under his management and on his initiative Ford has gone further than any other German carmaker in developing a high-roof model, based on the new Ford Escort that is due to be launched next January.

Goeudevert did not win friends and influence people with comments such as: "I could live with a speed limit" or "The motor car is heading down a blind alley at the moment."

As for traffic congestion, he said: "Traffic is on the verge of a breakdown. Sooner or later it will die out, like the dinosaur."

He was scathing about what he called "high-tech perversion," the striving for increasingly advanced models no-one can afford to buy.

That made him an outsider among the chief executives of German car firms. They might be expectet to be glad to see the back of him.

Carl H. Hahn, head of the largest German carmaker, must have thought twice about headhunting with Goeudevert in mind.

He will have decided in his favour less because of Goeudevert's off-beat ideas than on account of his skill at reducing the break-even point, the point at which even lower numbers of a given model can be manufactured and still earn a profit.

In the past decade this is an art at which only two car industry executives have excelled.

They were Vittorio Ghidella, who rescued Fiat in 1981 when they were deep in the red, making the Italian company the most profitable carmaker in Europe. And Ford's Daniel Goeudevert.

When he joined Ford at the end of 1980 the company was in the doldrums. In the 1970s Ford had emerged as a manufacturer of long-run models such as Granada and the Taunus, which sold well but were tame and unexciting.

They rapidly declined in popularity, only to be joined by the futuristic Sierra and Scorpio, launched during his first four years in Cologne by Bob Lutz, president of Ford of Europe.

The new models failed to attract the middle market German car-buyer, leaving Ford of Cologne with no choice but to appeal to a new class of customer.

Meanwhile, sales plummeted. In 1978, the first full year in which the new-look Granada was marketed, Ford sold 370,000 all over Europe.

In the first full production year of the Sierra, 1985, sales totalled a mere 78,000.

Where Goeudevert now proved a magician was in making a profit on annual sales of about 80,000 Scorpios by 1987. In other words, he cut costs and boosted unit profits.

He did so by axing hierarchies between shopfloor and management, by constant rationalisation on the supplies side, by buying components instead of making them at Ford and by putting computers to work.

At the same time he improved the quality — of Fords, and not other fine cars! Quality, not quantity, was the new slogan.

The return on turnover was increased to 5.6 per cent. In Europe only Fiat and Peugeot perform better, netting seven and 5.8 per cent respectively.

Volkswagen, in contrast, is one of the poorest profit-earners in Europe, earning a meagre 1.5 per cent.

So it is hardly surprising that Hahn was keen to enlist the services of a man with Goeudevert's track record. He isn't the first Ford executive to move to Volkswagen either.

In retrospect Ford of Cologne may be considered to have been a steady supplier of executive material to Volkswagen.

Toni Schmücker, ex-Ford sales manager, transferred to Volkswagen as chief executive from Rheinstahl in 1978.

Peter Weiher, Ford chief executive from July 1976 till the end of 1980, moved to Volkswagen too, where he is still in charge of marketing.

Dieter Ullsperger, who became head of finance at Ford at the age of 36, switched to Volkswagen via Klöckner-Humboldt-Deutz.

When he joins Volkswagen next January, Goeudevert is unlikely to better himself financially.

In Cologne he was grossing about DM900,000 a year; in Wolfsburg he will earn about DM1.1m.

Looking after the buying side of Volkswagen's operations will not be a full day's work, so Hahn has already promised him that he will be allowed to set up his VW-sponsored management training college as a sideline.

Much more importantly, however, Goeudevert will be Hahn's closest adviser on cutting costs. His advice will *be sought on how to boost, at long last, Volkswagen's return on turnover.*

Despite his struggle to introduce a controlling system Hahn has so far failed in this respect. If Goeudevert succeeds, overhauling yet another car firm, this time under Hahn's management, he will be next in line for chief executive.

This is a fact no matter how energetically rumours may be denied. Hahn will then be in a position to retire, aged 64 at the end of 1991, leaving behind a company that, financially speaking, is fighting fit.

Yet maybe Goeudevert will then quit too, for the same reason he said was why he has now left Ford: that he needs the challenge and the "action" of crisis management.

Hanns-Peter von Thyssen

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 16 June 1989)



Daniel Goeudevert was never interested in selling soap. (Photo: Poly-Press)

■ INNOVATION

Helping idea-rich small firms through the labyrinthine patent process

Two years ago Harald Wiesner set up his own automotive-systems testing, firm, Ems-Technik, in Leer, close to the Dutch frontier.

The company, now employing 60, owes its success to its knowhow in testing technology. Five patents in testing methods gave the young company a lead over the competition.

The future success of industry in the Federal Republic will depend on the innovative enterprise of small companies such as Harald Wiesner's. Knowhow is the decisive factor for their success.

In a world where international competition is getting ever keener, companies such as Ems-Technik need support in safeguarding and applying their knowledge.

This is why local authorities try to give newly-established companies a helping hand at the beginning through technology centres: central and state governments have increased their support for research among small and medium-sized companies.

But another point has become more and more important: safeguarding new technical developments on which the success of small and medium-sized companies in the Federal Republic is based.

Yet the number of applications for a patent in the Federal Republic, 75 per cent of which come from medium-sized firms, has dropped slightly.

Safeguarding their innovations is an ticklish matter for inventors working on their own and new companies. The prototype of a new idea usually has to be built with great effort and often with costly small components.

Applying for a patent is also an expensive and tedious business. It involves charges, examination fees and an annual payment for maintaining the validity of the patent.

This costs altogether about DM3,000. A European patent for the 12 states of the European Community, issued by the European Patents Office, swallows up about DM20,000. A worldwide patent costs about DM50,000.

But as only between two and five per cent of all applications for patents are exploited, the financial risks for the applicant are difficult to assess.

According to the Munich-based Ifo Institute for Economic Research, it is not surprising then that the enthusiasm for applying for patents increases with the size of the company.

Major companies have their own patents department where specialists can examine whether inventions are really new and what their possibilities are.

Through their experience in dealing with patents authorities these specialists know what is important about patent applications, which can considerably reduce the process of getting a patent.

But it is not only important to apply for a patent: it is also vital for companies to be acquainted with American and Japanese printed patent specifications.

For these provide information about what a new idea actually involves; they also provide a precise description of inventions with diagrams and design plans, which are a valuable source of technical knowledge.

The Frauenhofer Institute for Systematic Research and Innovative Analysis points out that the Japanese and the Americans look very closely into



printed patent specifications. This source of information, however, is only exploited by major companies in the Federal Republic.

There has also been an increasing internationalisation of patents. The German Patents Office was founded in 1887, but it has been losing in importance because more and more clients want to enter their patents rights with the European Patents Office (EPO). The Europe-wide patent rights acquired from this office reduce the tedious examination procedures.

The increased cooperation between the EPO and the patents offices in the US and Japan makes the transference of patent rights into these markets easier.

Siemens, for example, has 2,000 patents applications per year and is a main client of the German Patents Office. But Siemens is now thinking of going over to the European body, although it is almost bursting at the seams due to the pressure of work.

The firm Tech-Konzept in Essen has been commissioned commissioned by the North Rhine-Westphalia government to facilite access to international markets for small firms, markets which are becoming more and more important *all the time*.

Tech-Konzept has set up a language data bank in which the terminology of future-oriented technologies will be recorded in 13 languages.

From 1990 onwards companies will be able to make use of this aid to translation for patent applications abroad.

The Frauenhofer Institute wants to help particularly small and medium-sized firms to assess, from a technical point of view, patent applications.

A research service is to be set up within the state industry office, Nuremberg, financed by the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry, through which every company can be informed extensively about worldwide research in a specific field for a charge of about DM1,000.

Small companies do not have the personnel available to get an overall view of the research being carried out by their competitors from one of the 14 regional patents offices. By mid-1991 the other patents offices will offer this service.

The service offered by the Erfinderzentrums Norddeutschland (EZN) goes a step further. This organisation, set up by the Lower Saxony state government in 1981, offers inventors and small and medium-sized firms an assessment of their inventions free of charge.

EZN managing director Lothar Schaar said that although his organisation was set up eight years ago it was still unique in Europe, even if in the meantime various chambers of trade and industry and an increasing number of business consultants interested in innovations were offering assistance.

Paid for by the state government, inventors get a complete advice service. They are told whether their ideas are technically feasible, really new and, just as importantly, whether they have a real chance of being exploited.

The EZN only advises an inventor to apply for a patent if all these criteria are met and offers its help to do this.

EZN advances 75 per cent of the application costs and this only has to be repaid when an invention is successfully assessed.

EZN is also charged with recommending to the Lower Saxony Economic Affairs Ministry specific projects worthy of support.

Schaar regards separating the wheat from the chaff as an important service to the inventor, despite the interest in having as many patent applications as possible. This spares the inventor a great deal of disappointment.

"It is better if an inventor is told within a few hours that his invention has no hope of success. Otherwise he spends a lot of money for a patent and then waits 20 years in vain for a breakthrough," Schaar said.

If an invention is classified as having lots of potential for success, packaging, for instance, which is economical with paper, invented by Walter Glöjer from Reinbeck, the EZN participates in marketing it, taking a share in the invention.

After a few run-up difficulties the EZN has gained so much recognition that Schleswig-Holstein has been participating in the organisation since 1987.

According to Schaar it is planned to set up a similar organisation in North Rhine-Westphalia, aimed at medium-sized companies.

Efforts of this sort are taken note of in Lower Saxony with a degree of bitterness, because the economic weaknesses of the state are reflected by its scarcity of inventors.

According to the German Patents Office only 6.5 per cent of West German inventions come from Lower Saxony, the second largest state in the Federal Republic.

In population terms Lower Saxony has 29 inventions per 100,000 people, third place from the bottom.

By comparison Hesse with a similar number of inhabitants had 69 patents, Baden-Württemberg 76.

Peter Stepina, chairman of the West German Inventors Association, said that better information about research in other companies and cost-free advice to inventors were all praiseworthy developments. But in his view the position of the inventor will not be improved *fundamentally*.

He believes *that what is lacking is* cash for the *first* convertion of an idea into something tangible, and for workshops where inventors can have the use of vital equipment and the possibility of exchanging ideas with others.

If inventors have for years complained about a suspicious bureaucracy, over-cautious bankers and a lack of interest for their inventions in industry, their annoyance is now primarily directed towards the Bonn Finance Ministry.

Inventors working on their own must pay tax on the bonuses which they receive for licences or suggestions for improvements in companies as a consequence of the tax reforms, introduced on 1 January this year.

Furthermore they can no longer charge as a professional outlay their expenditures for experiments.

The Inventors Association and the German society for inventions and innovations in Bonn regards this as discrimination against the inventor operating on his own.

The Finance Ministry avers, however, that tax reforms have strengthened the innovative potentials of small and medium-sized firms. Yet executives in industry are worried that the valuable flow of ideas from employees *will dry up* as a result of this tax reform.

In order to maintain the financial impetus for creative thinking many companies have in the past few weeks dramatically increased their bonuses for improvement suggestions. For the efforts of employees, often underestimated, are valuable capital for a company.

Ten per cent of the applications for a patent presented every year by car manufacturers Opel or the mining organisation Bergbau IG Westfalen come from employees.

Despite vehement protest by inventors, the SPD and even the CSU, the Finance Ministry has remained obdurate. Bonn said tersely that consideration was not being given to amending this point in tax reform.

The financial authorities are also taking money from inventors in another way.

While inventors complain about the high fees charged by the German Patents Office, the highest in Europe, this Office showed a surplus of about DM30m this year, which is picked up by the Finance Ministry. In America, on the other hand, the Patents Office is subsidised.

Peter Stepina has bitterly come to the conclusion that not everyone is convinced of the importance of supporting research. He said that in the Federal Republic "the inventor is still penalised."

Andreas Rinke

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 June 1989)

Gordon Craig speaks out

Continued from page 5

ing democracy. I feel other politicians were trusted too, Schmidt and Brandt and people.

But I recently heard someone say: "Thank God for Weizsäcker, he offsets all the rest of the blackguards."

What has happened during the Kohl administration is, I feel, a decline in confidence — and one that isn't limited to his own party.

The reasons are the extent of corruption, from the Flick affair to party-political funding and the Barschel business, which was a real shocker.

These are causes that are quick to influence a wider public, triggering a sense of "we" and "them" once the man in the street begins to feel no-one is to be trusted. It's exactly the same in my own country, and the best example is the oil slick that polluted Alaska. No-one trusts anyone.

Everyone has failed abysmally: the government, Exxon, business consortia. The repercussions will be substantial and it will be ages before it is all over.

Here in the United States I reckon the press is partly to blame. It doesn't do its job properly. It prefers sensationalism and convenience.

I feel the situation in the Federal Republic is better in this respect. The success of the press is indeed, in my view, one of the success stories of democracy in the Federal Republic of Germany.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 June 1989)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Radioactive cargoes pose threat to crews on international flights

Radioactive cargo is carried in the holds beneath airliner cabins more often than passengers may imagine. Crews in particular are exposed to a high contamination risk, says Rudolf von Braunburg, a former Lufthansa pilot, now a freelance writer living in Waldbröl, near Bonn.

The captain stood in front of his jumbo jet and checked the cargo to be flown back to Germany. Two items were out of the ordinary: live birds stowed away at the rear of the plane and radioactive packages stored in front, near the cockpit.

As it was a North Atlantic run and there were no instructions on the contents of the radioactive packages and what to do by way of protection, the pilot asked the ramp agent, in charge of ground servicing, to shift the unwelcome packages to the back, in with the birds.

The ramp agent refused. His instructions were clear. Radioactive packages are not to be stored alongside live animals.

Airline crews all over the world have found out for themselves that regulations of this kind deal in detail with where, and where not, to store radioactive cargo — but blandly disregard the crew.

My personal experience dates back to the days of piston-engined airliners in the early 1960s.

Those were the days when we flew on board Superstar freighters fuel rods for a reactor near Karachi — at a time when the world's governments uniformly denied having anything to do with building or supplying Pakistan with plant, equipment or nuclear fuel.

A few years later similar cargoes were flown on board Boeing 707s to South Africa. Pilots were among the first to know what was going on — at a time when contracting parties were busy denying and covering up for such dealings.

To this day air cargo shipments of this kind are not entirely legal, at least not as far as consignment check-in procedures are concerned, and they have increased enormously in number.

The requirements of nuclear medicine for one have increased roughly eightfold in the 1980s. There are few if any long-haul routes on which radioactive consignments are not to be found in freight compartments.

Pilots and passengers are exposed in equal measure to the radiation they emit, but cockpit and cabin crews fly much more often than even the most frequent passenger.

Crews are airborne for up to 900 hours a year. Even if freight items are packaged and carried in strict accordance with requirements they still emit low-grade radiation of the kind that even erstwhile nuclear power aficionados must now admit can, in the long term, have devastating effects.

Yet despite this radiation risk there is still not the slightest sign of crews being regularly checked for radiation exposure.

Pilots are exposed to an estimated 120 millirems a year (legally they may be exposed to up to 3,680 millirems a year). This and other sources of radiation amount to an average annual exposure of 500 millirems per crew member.

Legal or not, this is a level at which people run a markedly higher cancer risk, twice as high as the average exposure of reactor staff and about 15 times the exposure that is tolerated for people who live near nuclear power stations.

Passengers can work out for themselves their radiation exposure per flight. But, and it is a big but, this figure presupposes that all radioactive consignments are both clearly marked and properly packed.

A pilot who checks his cargo and discovers that the papers indicate a radioactive consignment has no way of checking whether it is properly packed.

Small wonder that pilots have applied for simple measuring procedures to be observed. As all consignments are weighed in before loading, installing a geiger counter alongside the scales should be enough to check the radiation.

Yet airlines see no need to buy and use geiger counters, inexpensive though they may be.

In the late 1970s I frequently flew the Arctic route to Anchorage, Alaska. My flight engineers often had geiger counters in their pack.

They bought them for a few dollars in a hobby shop in Anchorage. They

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

may not have measured the radiation exactly, but they did indicate — optically and acoustically — when radiation increased or declined.

In polar routes via Banks Strait, Baffin Bay and Thule, the geiger counters used to tick away noisily, which is hardly surprising; north of about 55° N radioactive clouds still circle the North Pole as a result of atmospheric nuclear tests in the 1950s.

So our DC 10 was regularly washed after landing, using a special mixture.

Many an airline has run a series of advertisements in the glossies saying how conscientiously its airliners are serviced, but I have yet to see a picture showing radioactive particles being hosed down after a polar run.

We pilots, who were responsible for the outside check before taking the aircraft over, were warned not to touch various air intake ports with our bare hands. They might, we were told, be contaminated.

This man-made radiation comes in addition to natural high-altitude radiation caused by high-energy particles bombarding the upper atmosphere from outer space. North of 55° N exposure to radiation of this kind is estimated to be *0.5 millirems per flight* hour logged.

As technology and cockpit equipment have been updated, a third source of radiation has joined the other two.

The latest two-man cockpits are lined with the cathode ray tubes of monitor screens that relay information which used to be indicated on mechanical instrumentation. Six cathode ray tubes total further radiation exposure of at least 42.5 millirems a year.

Taken individually, none of these three sources of radioactive contamination may be a serious health hazard. The combination is what has prompted airline pilots to clamour for clear legal provisions to ensure that they are entitled to at least the same level of safety precautions as, say, nuclear power station staff.

They argue that specific exposure dosage ceilings need to be specified, and monitored in the same way as they are for reactor and X-ray staff.

Cockpit, the Frankfurt-based pilots' association, held a press conference in May to publicise their demands.

It was a gathering attended by Berlin lawyer Reiner Geulen and Marburg University nuclear medicine specialist Professor Horst Kuni.

A number of journalists who heard what they had to say were shocked. Ought passengers not to be briefed before take-off on the amount of radioactive material on board and the risk of flying through radioactive clouds?

The question is naive, to say the least. All passengers would promptly leave the plane if they were told what consignments were stored beneath their seats, regardless whether consignments were properly packed.

Airlines' press officers would naturally argue that these shipments and the clouds planes passed through were not in the least dangerous for passengers.

Even so, Cockpit has tabled a comprehensive catalogue of demands that will, in the final analysis, benefit passengers too.

They demand measures to effectively reduce radiation exposure, such as amendments to packaging regulations. Samples containing plutonium ought, for instance, to be protected from fire and shock — just as "spy-in-the-cab" tachographs already are.

Geiger counters ought to be standard equipment on board all aircraft that carry radioactive consignments. Pilots are naturally keen to ensure that the radiation level to which crews are exposed is regularly monitored.

The demand made by the captain on the occasion initially described, for *radioactive cargoes to be stored as far* away from the cockpit as possible, will soon be impossible, however.

The new generation of super long-haul jets will require two crews and rest rooms. The replacement crew will wait their turn in quarters near the tail of the plane — and the freight in question.

Professor Kuni was in no doubt how he felt about packaging. When air cargo consignments arrived at his university department in Marburg, he said, he was regularly shocked by the slipshod packaging.

Such irresponsible behaviour would be out of the question at his department. Immediately on arrival, consignments were repacked in accordance with the much stricter hospital safety requirements before being relayed to their recipients.

Rudolf von Braunburg

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 9 June 1989)

■ BOOKS

Bank robbers in East Germany disadvantaged

Crime writers from both parts of Germany met at Berlin's idyllic Wannsee at the "Criminale" Conference to discuss the crime novel and the peculiarities of the genre in the East and the West.

And there are peculiarities, mainly peculiarities which are not immediately obvious.

A crime writer from East Berlin, for instance, looked enviously, but not without an ironic twinkle in his eye, towards his western colleagues and said: "It is easier for you to write the great crime novel, because you have the bigger crimes."

Why is that so? Jan Eik from East Berlin asked: "Why do we not have any bank raids and hostage dramas?" He answered himself with a joke: "Because we have to wait 14 years for a getaway car."

Nevertheless the GDR does offer the crime writer a few advantages. They are, for instance, relatively well paid. Unlike their colleagues in the Federal Republic they can earn a living from writing crime novels.

West German crime writers, mainly teachers, journalists or lawyers, cannot hope to receive the rewards their East German opposite numbers get: a minimum print run of at least 100,000 copies for a new book and an advance of 25,000 East German marks.

Print runs in the Federal Republic for a new crime novel are only between 8,000 and 10,000 copies with an advance of DM8,000.

But any writer dependent on the favour of the state can hardly be socially critical. Professor Peter Nusser from West Berlin said that the main function of the crime novel was to be socially critical — of course as well as being entertaining.

The traditional murderer is rarely the gardener, even if he is often to be found in the vicinity of the garden. No, the seekers-after-truth, the investigators and the would-be do-gooders sniff about after quite different spoors today, or they should at least do so.

According to Professor Nusser the varieties of reality can no longer be presented so simply — here the crime, there the criminal.

In his opinion there are no longer supreme evil-doers, there is evil such as economic or environmental crime.

Professor Nusser convincingly called for a political crime novel without a happy ending, which made us aware of crime, a psychological assessment of the individual linked to a sociological assessment of society.

But, arn't the connections of something like environmental crime too complex to be presented by a crime writer?

Isn't it true that reality far outstrips the imagination which is why we are always lagging behind reality, be it in crime novels, TV games or in the quiet or our own room?

The East German crime writer does not ask such questions. He conforms to what the state requires. But there are more and more signs of a growing sense of social criticism, which several participants in the conference emphasised regularly.

Nevertheless there was not much evidence of social criticism in the excerpts from East German crime novels, read out at the conference.

Jan Eik, for instance, saw most of the criticism just directed at the catering trade, such as that the "ragoût fin" only contained skin or that there was "paprika" on the plate when the menu said that the dish would be served with mushrooms.

Where the crime novel presses on the frontiers of possibility, where deputy directors or department heads are never considered from the very beginning as murderers, where there is no detective à la Philip Marlowe, but state criminologists as defenders of state order, these deficiencies must be made up for with other qualities. And there are other qualities. They are humour, imagination and accurate observation.

These qualities are displayed, for instance, in Gerhard Neumann's *Die Vermummten*. He comes from Halle and is the doyen of East German crime literature.

His 33 sketches about the murder in the public brine baths in Salzenau are original and imaginative. In a masterly, amusingly-critical way he imitates the language of people of various social backgrounds and of varying walks of life, from the ordinary man in the street to the medical officer of health.

On the last evening of the conference, before the presentation of Crime Writer of 1988 award, there was a discussion.

What trips through the crime novels written by women in a mixed-up way is the corpses of men. The female masterminds let the heads role aplenty, which does not mean that they glorify violence.

On the contrary, women have considerable inhibitions describing violence, even the blood-thirsty. They direct their gaze more to the latent, subtle violence of everyday life.

Ingeburg Siebenstädt said: "Violence does not make a story exciting." Her colleagues Susanne Thomas, Sabine Deitmer, Lydia Tews and Liza Cody from Britain all agreed with her.

They took the view that women hate violence, they could not deal with it and were less violent any way.

Liza Cody perceptively said: "When a man locks his door at night, it's not a woman he wants to keep out!"

The complait of an elderly, mother-pampered member of the audience that women and mothers were to blame for everything, was lightly dismissed.

The high point of the conference, making the awards, announced in such



flowery terms, did not come up to expectations.

Wolfgang Menges, speaker at the award ceremony, expressed his displeasure at the chaotic organisation of the event and the poor crime novels which he read.

The real surprise was for Menges himself and the competitors he chased out of the running for the award — all names from whom one had not heard a word during the whole crime writer conference week.

The Crime writer of the Year Prize is named after Swiss crime writer Friedrich Glauser. It carries with it a cheque for DM10,000.

The Glauser Prize was awarded this year to Bernhard Schlink from Bonn for *Die gordische Schleife*, published last year by the Diogenes publishing house.

A small bronze in honour of Glauser was awarded to Hansjörg Martin for his life's work as a crime writer. Martin was not present at the conference.

Andrea Hilgenstock

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 June 1989)

Vodka-drinking Bella Block and the wandering hands

The question surprised even a woman detective. "How much to you want to murder someone?"

The cool beauty who, with considerable self-confidence, drank vodka from a tumbler, talked about murder as other women talk about the laundry. She intended to employ Bella Block for a capital offence.

At first that pleased the young woman. She pondered for a while about her financial situation and the drag of having to work every day. Then she rejected the proposal, saying: "I don't kill people."

This flat sentence was softened down later when Bella is drawn into an affair between a young girl and a drug dealer, the Camorra and procuring. For justice, as everyone knows, is not always established by means of the law.

Hamburg-born Doris Gercke, 51, is astonished at the success of her creation, Bella Block, who appears in her two books, *Weinschröter, du mußt hängen* and *Nachsaison*, both published by the Galgen Verlag.

She knows something about the relationship between justice and the law for she is currently going through the torture of her law exams.

She is on familiar terms with legal jargon and can study in detail its contradictions. She has decided to complete her studies but then devote herself to writing.

She had not expected that the critics would be enthusiastic after the appearance of her first book — she does not speak about the sales success of *Weinschröter*. Six months after its appearance the first edition of 6,000 copies was sold out.

Doris Gercke has touched the nerve of critics and public with her heroine Bella Block. North German Radio described her work as "impressive realism."

Der Spiegel found the heroine's investigation methods so original that without delay the magazine said that the magazine's publishing house would publish "four Block adventures every year." But Doris Gercke, delighted with the praise, knew nothing about this.

Bella Block is indeed a remarkable character. Men meet her with cool contempt, lasciviousness or wandering hands.

With her penchant for vodka, uninhibited ideas about sex and violence, she has the effect of the alter ego of the private detective in provincial America.

It was only being consistent then, that Doris Gercke placed her heroine in the treadmill of the police, as a cross-grained civil servant, who coolly looked through the affected behaviour of her male colleagues.

In *Nachsaison* Bella Block, independent and alone, follows her dangerous profession.

To members of her sex involved in the women's movement this must seem to be a contradiction.

The authoress said that some women readers had said that it was sad that Bella did not have a good female friend at least.

Doris Gercke said: "I've thought about whether Bella should not have a female friend. Then I realised that it would be wrong. It did not fit into her personality."

These words reveal something. On the one hand Doris Gercke is refrshingly open to suggestions and criticisms of her two books. On the other hand she obviously has a feel for the demands of the crime novel, although she rather regards Chekhov as her literary mentor than the



Unexpected blockbusters . . . author Doris Gercke. (Photo: Andreas Oabe)

masters of the form, Chandler for example.

She admits herself that she is not well-read in crime literature, which makes her different, delightfully different, from her German colleagues, male and female.

She does without the more or less intelligent playing around with the genre, no quotes from Marlowe, no remakes of Ripley or Spade wander about in the background of her stories.

Her most important difference to many German crime writers and her definite contribution as a writer is her ability to create an atmosphere of threat, wretchedness, violence and oppression in a few sentences.

Yet her stories are not close to being polemical prose although she selects a specific feminine approach.

Doris Gercke has grasped the significant difference between nature and appearance. She knows how to find words which are not only descriptive at a superficial level.

Describing the career efforts of her police colleagues in *Weinschröter* she wrote: "The whole thing is so meaningless, like a pack of dogs on concrete (where they cannot scratch a hole) after they have defecated."

This comparison might appear vulgar, but futility cannot be more strikingly illustrated.

Furthermore what passes for good literature often expects its readers not to be squeamish.

Crime novel fans can be delighted that a new talent has been discovered, an authoress who can tell a good story without being wordy, with a character who is astonishingly convincing.

She is a writer who intends to develop her literary potential to the full, that means sticking to a bourgeois work schedule: at her desk from eight until 12 to produce five and a half to six and a half pages of typescript.

This is how she intends to produce crime novels, but she knows her limitations.

In this sense she has applied limitations to her heroine Bella Block. She reacts calmly when in the last scene of *Nachsaison* she witnesses how from the middle of a group mourning the sudden demise of a pimp, his wife is shot.

Instead of entering the scene with the grand gestures of an all-knowing detective, she simply remarks: "Don't get up, girl. I'll call the police."

Sven Rohde

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 June 1989)

■ THE THEATRE

Kampnagelfabrik glasnost and a lot more as well



The biennial drama festival "Theater der Welt 89" has returned to the city where it first started ten years ago, Hamburg.

In 1979 the then director of Hamburg's Schauspielhaus, Ivan Nagel, attracted to Hamburg the major event of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), "Theatre of the Nations."

As it was unlikely that this festival of Olympic Games dimensions, much courted worldwide, would return soon to the Federal Republic, the idea developed in the German section of ITI to set up a similar festival, financed by the Federal Republic, named "Theater der Welt."

Cologne, Frankfurt and two years ago Stuttgart have hosted this biennial festival with its glut of theatre performances from all over the world, so many they can hardly be taken in at one go.

This is literally what has happened in Hamburg. Firstly groups from every continent are represented in the programme that is organised more decisively that the other festivals into three aspects. One aspect is called "The five continents." Another is called "Avant-garde theatre," which in consideration of the selection criteria for such an international parade of top productions comes close to tautology.

In the narrowest sense avant-garde works are expected mainly from the independent groups. But Renate Klett, in charge artistically of the festival along with Jürgen Flimm from Hamburg's Thalia Theater, has been wide-ranging in her selection.

Between 16 June and 2 July "Theater der Welt 89" is offering 95 performances at various Hamburg locations: the Thalia Theater, the Schauspielhaus and its workshop theatre, Malersaal, in three halls in the Kampnagelfabrik, a disused factory turned into a series of theatres, the St Pauli Theater and the "Giesserei," not far from St Pauli.

The programme includes 34 different productions from 24 theatres and drama groups from 17 countries, the range extending from plays for single performers to the seven-hour-long *Brüder und Schwestern*, spread over two evening performances and including 50 performers.

This play, performed by the Maly Theatre, Leningrad, opened the festival. This drama, together with the satire of socialism, *Hundherz*, adapted from the long-banned novel by Michail Bulgakov, in a performance by Moscow's Theatre of Young Spectators, produced the third aspect of the whole programme — Glasnost Theatre.

This aspect was represented mainly by the legendary theatre epic *Brüder und Schwester*, from a novel by Fjodor Abramov. Among other things this is a dramatic clash with Stalinist collectivisation in the countryside.

Inviting the Maly Theatre was appropriate for two reasons. Hamburg is twinned with Leningrad and this year is the port's 800th anniversary.

Two other cities, twinned with Hamburg, were also represented in the festival in the anniversary year: Dresden's Staatsschauspiel sent a production of *Übergangsgesellschaft* by Volker Braun along with Wolfgang Engel's production of *Penthesilea* by Heinrich von Kleist.

Shanghai, with whom Hamburg is also twinned, is expected to turn up with a grotesque piece entitled *Lennon, Confucius, Jesus*, scheduled to close the festival.

The other significance of opening the festival with the Leningrad production involves glasnost.

"Theater der Welt" is not entirely a stranger to glasnost. Two years ago in Stuttgart the plays presented opened up discussion of the new openness, wrung from the authorities with difficulty.

One notices another possible principle in the festival when trying to get an overall view before it really gets going. This is also linked to the desire for openness: it is the paraphrase.

An example is Volker Braun's *Übergangsgesellschaft*, first produced in Bremen: the play is a paraphrase of Chekhov's *Three Sisters*.

We shall find out whether there are traces of critical reflection in the *Midsummer Night's Dream* improvision, *Sponsai — Erinnern*, performed by "Zinnober," the only independent group from the GDR. This will be put on in the Kampnagelfabrik.

In 1987 "Zinnober" was banned from performing for many months. At the beginning of this year the group from Prenzlauer Berg, a district of East Berlin, were for many weeks guest performers in West Berlin.

The limited permission to travel to Hamburg for "Theater der Welt" confirms the assessment of the situation by the "Zinnober" people themselves: they have obviously been promoted from being a problem to becoming an advertisement for young people's theatre in East Germany.

In any event there was a lot of "conceptual dove-tailing," as Renate Klett put it, interconnections between the three rather vaguely defined aspects of the festival.

One example of such dove-tailing is another variation on Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, Helen Cooper's play *Mrs Vershinin*, a feminist-inclined, dramatic fantasy about the fate of an officer's wife, likely to attempt suicide, who is only indirectly referred to in Chekhov's play.

The small series of productions by Potemkin Productions, London, in the Kampnagelfabrik, will be followed by another paraphrase of a classic.

Orme de Ariele is a continuation of Ariel's fate, Prospero's airy spirit in *The Tempest*. This play by the Levi brothers will be put on by the Teatro dell'Acqua from Gargnano on Lake Garda.

There was also another kind of dove-tailing in the form of an instructive look over the shoulder to the "Theater of the Nations" in Hamburg ten years ago.

The New York Squat Theatre was introduced to us then, with performances in the show-window of a Hamburg furniture store.

This time the group is filling the gap caused by Eva Matthes' illness. She was scheduled to appear in a performance of Zadek's production of *The Merchant of Venice* by the Burgtheater from Vienna.

For this festival Squat Group will perform with dialogue in the largest German-language theatre, the Schauspielhaus in Hamburg.

The group, once regarded as an alternative group, has changed its approach to acting within the space of a few years, or at least its requirements.

Hamburg's "Theater der Welt 89" has kept to the tradition of promoting a single group. In 1981 in Cologne the

Continued on page 14

The bare facts in *A Vision of Love Revealed in Sleep*, by the Gloria group, London. (Photo: Theater der Welt)



Looking up in *Reclamheimlich*, based on Schiller's *Die Räuber*. (Photo: Thalia Theater)

High intellectual demands at the asylum

Of the 159 entries for the 10th nationwide competition "Theatertreffen der Jugend," 10 were invited to Berlin.

Hans Chiout, head of the young people's drama competition, said that decisions rested on quality rather than considerations of proportional representation of any kind.

The jury, constantly challenged, discovered quality in the senior classes in gymnasiums and drama-training projects. This year neither secondary modern schools nor vocational schools were represented.

In the jury's view the choice of productions was "extraordinary, if not pointing the way to current drama in schools."

The emphasis was on re-working or adaption of literary models. The intellectual demands of the young people were high.

Among the extraordinary school theatre productions there was a performance by the Frühlings Erwachen drama group from Cologne's Heinrich Heine Gymnasium of Peter Weiss's *The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat*.

The inmates of the Charenton lunatic asylum are loafing about in modern hospital beds, guarded by hideous supervisors. The picturesque crowd form up in varying processions, dancing and poking fun.

If they go too far electric-shock treatment is prescribed that makes the body twitch and grovel by storm lighting effects.

The action is uninterrupted, presenting wicked rascals, fluttering tricolours, scornful pantomime and cruel guillotine games.

Everything was just right, the choreography, the music and the acting.

A robber band was founded at the very beginning of the "Theatertreffen." The members of the junior Hamburg Thalia Theatre gave their minds to "The Schiller, who belongs to us," and got to work with the first work of the young poet-playwright Friedrich Schiller.

The result was a work entitled *Reclamheimlich* (a play on the name of the publishers Reclam, well-known for their

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■ MEDICINE

Craze for sun-tanning a major cause of the advance of skin cancer

Dermatologists are horrified by an increasingly widespread variety of skin cancer known as "black" cancer, or malignant melanoma.

In the early years of this century it was most unusual. Today the number of new cases reported has increased fivefold in 15 years.

These eight to 12 new cases a year per 100,000 people are mainly attributed to the suntan craze.

The growth rate is felt to be due to the use of solariums and preparatory drugs that make the skin more sensitive — and quicker to tan.

The latest research findings were compared at an international gathering held at Steglitz University Hospital, Berlin, by the German Dermatology Society's malignant melanoma commission.

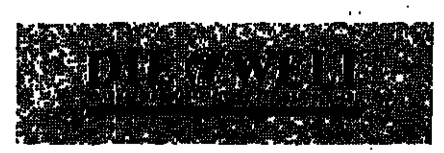
Just how widespread is this form of skin cancer? No-one knows for sure. Only estimates are available as uniform cancer statistics are not kept.

In some *Länder* data are kept, on an anonymous basis, but in 1983 a pilot project began at the Steglitz skin clinic.

Staff at the clinic, headed by Professor Constantin Orfanos, began to keep morbidity and mortality records of this variety of skin cancer.

The central register was launched in 1984 and is run jointly with the Federal Health Office, Berlin.

Thirty-five clinics in the Federal Republic of Germany and one each in Aus-



tria and Switzerland are associated with the project. Others are interested.

Professor Orfanos says the register indicates there has been a somewhat surprising epidemiological change in recent years.

At one time more women than men were generally felt to suffer from malignant melanoma, or a cancerous pigmentation of the skin. This is no longer the case.

In Berlin, for instance, there are eight female and 9.8 male patients per 100,000 people. The men have larger melanomas and a higher death rate.

The complaint may be a killer, but it isn't incurable, Professor Orfanos says. If only it is spotted early it can be cured without drastic treatment.

Indeed, the chances of a permanent cure are better than for any other kind of cancer.

If, however, the patient does not consult a doctor until the condition has reached an advanced stage, whether out of ignorance or of fear, there are strict limits to what can be done.

As soon as it reaches the lower levels of the skin it starts to spread secondary metastatic growths all over the body — to the brain, the liver or the lung.

Improvements in spotting cancer at an early stage have led to a substantial decline in the proportion of melanoma cases that were not identified until they had reached an advanced stage.

Between 1962 and 1986, Professor Orfanos says, the decline was from 60 to 37 per cent among women and from 72 to 41 per cent among men.

Today nine out of 10 patients consult their doctor when the growth is still less than one millimetre thick. At this stage a scalpel will usually effect a full cure.

For fear of secondary growths enormous areas used to be surgically removed. Entire arms were amputated, for instance.

Today the surrounding tissue is only removed within a radius, and to a depth, of about three centimetres, or just over an inch.

Who belongs to a risk group? Clear answers to this question can be given. Caucasians, or whites, are about 10 times more liable to suffer from this form of skin cancer than people with darker skins, such as Chinese or Africans.

Among the whites people with pale skins and blond or red hair and blue eyes are the main risk group.

From early youth their skin tends to sunburn in the least exposure to sunlight. They seldom, in contrast, get a "healthy" tan.

The alarm bells ring for people in whose families two or more members have a large number of moles or suffer from malignant melanomas.

The age group that is most seriously threatened are, incidentally, the 35-year-olds.

Professor Orfanos adds that the more moles or birthmarks you have, the greater the risk you run of harmless blemishes turning malignant.

Surface melanomas can be satisfactorily treated by means of surgery, but the prospects of a cure for secondary growths are still fairly poor.

Chemotherapy is the usual course of treatment. It frequently can prolong life.

Berlin has gained lengthy experience with immuno-modulatory procedures, such as interferon and interleukin treatment.

These drugs are just as effective as conventional chemotherapeutic treatment yet do less toxic organ damage.

A combination of the two can also make sense, maybe even allowing the patient to carry on working. A limited number of patients seem to respond well to interferon injected straight into a secondary growth.

Chemotherapy is one way of treating secondary growths. Isolated growths in the lung or the brain are nowadays often successfully removed by surgery.

A substance that has yet to be licensed for clinical use also holds forth the prospect of dealing satisfactorily with secondary growths in the brain, which occur frequently.

This wide range of treatment even for malignant melanomas that have triggered secondary growths is no guarantee of a cure, Professor Orfanos says.

But it can prolong a life sensibly lived and greatly ease the pain.

The safest way of ensuring that malignant melanomas do not become lethal is to keep an eye on your body and consult your doctor as soon as you see any changes in or bleeding of moles.

B. Nickolaus

(Die Welt, Bonn, 16 June 1989)

The laser beam — the scalpel of light

Laser treatment was shown at a Munich trade fair, Laser 89, to work wonders in curing thrombosis of the leg and arteriosclerosis.

A new laser designed and manufactured by a Munich firm can blast sclerotic material from the inside walls of clogged blood vessels to within a hundredth of a millimetre.

So sufferers from the condition popularly known in German as smoker's leg are the latest in line for successful medical treatment by means of the laser.

Eye surgeons were first to use the laser's high-energy light rays about 20 years ago to weld a detached retina back into position.

In urology laser rays are used to destroy tumours in the bladder, the urinary tract and the abdomen.

The versatile laser is used to eliminate skin ulcers and angiomas and to generally assist surgeons as they operate.

In brain surgery they can eliminate ulcers that are otherwise impossible to remove surgically, or only at great risk.

Heat emitted as part of light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation, to give the laser its full name, is even used to treat slipped disc patients.

Generations of doctors have dreamt of operations in which no blood is shed. "Bloodless surgery" is now standard practice in an increasing number of sectors.

The laser has fast gained acceptance alongside the scalpel as an indispensable surgical instrument, and its use is sure to grow even more widespread, says Professor Alfons G. Hofstetter, head of Lübeck medical laser centre.

Only a few weeks ago Berlin eye surgeon and physicist Theo Seiler and Professor Josef Wollensek of the Free University, Berlin, unveiled a trailblazing new technique to treat defective eyesight.

They demonstrated how a short-wave, high-energy excimer laser can be used to shave fractions of a millimetre off the cornea to rectify short or long sight.

After laser treatment, which does not require a stay in hospital, patients can throw away their glasses and go home. The light falls on their retina at exactly the right angle.

Latest developments in laser medicine hold forth great hopes of cancer treatment. One method uses the heat emitted by the laser, another relies on laser-induced photochemical processes.

The patient is first given a contrast agent, a haematoporphyrin derivative, or HPD for short. It is injected into his veins.

This marker substances stays longer in diseased than in healthy tissue.

Laser treatment triggers photochemical processes that kill the diseased cell yet leave surrounding tissue unharmed (it hasn't been sensitised and doesn't respond to laser light).

Specialists in Lübeck, at the Soviet Laser Institute, Moscow, and at the Cancer Research Centre, Heidelberg, have joined forces to combine this process with conventional cancer treatment.

They are using special cell cultures to check conventional cytostatic drugs and see whether they have the same proper-

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■ NATURAL HISTORY

Robot's convincing performance in The Dance of the Foraging Bee

It is over 40 years since the language of bees was deciphered, and scientists have pulled off another amazing coup.

Würzburg University zoologists have simulated the dance of the foraging bee, leading worker bees to artificial sources of food.

The dance is imitated so convincingly by a robot bee that other bees accept it and act on the message which is seemingly relayed.

Once Karl von Frisch had deciphered the language of bees in 1945, an achievement for which he was later awarded the Nobel Prize, many zoologists set out to simulate the dance of the foraging bee.

When a worker bee discovers a plentiful source of nectar she will return time and again, tirelessly feeding on her new-found source of food.

As she unloads her pouches at the hive she will also perform a distinctive foraging dance to show other bees where the nectar is.

If it is less than 50 metres away she will turn a full but narrow circle, first clockwise, then anti-clockwise, on a vertical honeycomb.

If it is further away she will perform a



foraging dance that conveys exact details of the location, distance and yield of the source of nectar she has discovered.

She will describe semicircular arcs, stopping to wiggle her tail to and fro. The direction indicated relates to the position of the sun.

A dance performed vertically and upward on the honeycomb means: "You have to fly straight toward the sun to get there."

Dancing vertically but downward means: "Fly in the opposite direction to the sun." Dancing at an angle to the sun indicates the exact angle of the direction to be taken.

The distance is indicated by the dance rhythm. The longer each figure takes and the longer the intervals between each performance, the further away the source of nectar is from the hive.

The dance of the foraging bee is not just a news item. "It contains strict instructions to surrounding worker bees to join the fray immediately and help to work the new-found food source," says Martin Lindauer of Würzburg University.

His research work is supported financially by the Mainz Academy of Sciences and the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology.

He is by no means the first scientist to try and simulate the dance of the foraging bee. US scientists tried years ago, using a dancing robot bee.

But Lindauer, in conjunction with Axel Michelsen, a specialist in bioacoustics at Odense University, Denmark, made the crucial breakthrough.

They noted that all previous experiments had disregarded a key aspect of the dance: it includes a sound which, when amplified, is perhaps best described as a kind of pulsating rattle.

It is made by the flight muscles via the wings. If this noise isn't made, bees pay no attention to a fellow-bee dancing.

Professor Michelsen is said by his Würzburg colleagues to have designed perfect miniature wings mounted on diamond bearings, computerised to make the requisite rattling sound to indicate distances of between 100 and 1,000 metres.

It wasn't easy to coordinate the robot bee's dance with the given position of the sun. As a real live bee regularly checks the angle of its flight route to the position of the sun with reference to the Earth's field of gravity, the robot bee has to be reset every 10 minutes.

The robot bee is also dusted in the scent of the likely flowers, such as thyme. Samples of the nectar collected are also needed to convince the other bees.

This success came as a surprise in that Professor Michelsen wasn't over-optimistic when he arrived in Würzburg with his robot.

Bees back in Denmark had been interested in the bogus information but were quick to identify the robot as an intruder and to sting it to death, as it were.

Würzburg bees seemed less mistrustful. They took the phoney dance at face value.

"It will probably be another decade before we have developed a really convincing robot bee to direct other bees to specific feeding places," Professor Michelsen says.

That isn't his prime objective. He and his fellow-scientists are more keenly interested in correctly interpreting the significance of the individual figures of the dance.

We could be in for a number of surprises about the "language" used for communication in the animal kingdom.

Wilhelm Irsch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 June 1989)

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ties as HPD. "We have the impression that some do," says Professor Hofstetter.

If this impression is confirmed, cancer patients stand to benefit in two ways.

Cytostatic drugs will set to work on the cell, leaving the laser to finish it off. Skin and mucous membrane carcinomas are best suited for this treatment, Professor Hofstetter says.

Lasers can also be used to break up gallstones, kidney stones and stones in the urinary tract within the body — although the technique has not yet been perfected and standardised.

An endoscope is first used to insert an optical fibre into the body. Laser rays are specially focussed and sent down the fibre and straight to the stone.

The laser triggers a shock wave that reaches a pressure of several thousand bars at the point of impact. After a couple of minutes of bombardment the stone is shattered into fragments that find their way out of the body in the normal way.

This technique, known as intra-corporal shock wave lithotripsia and devised in Lübeck, is undergoing trials at urological clinics in Heidelberg and Munich. So is a similar technique devised by a US manufacturer.

If they work they will be serious competition for the extra-corporal technique in which the patient lies in a tub full of water or on a water-filled cushion and has gallstones or kidney stones shattered bloodlessly from outside the body.

Orthopaedic surgeons are increasingly using lasers too, particularly to treat slipped discs. Even "laser welding" of broken bones is now more than wishful thinking.

In the United States doctors have mended several fractures by laser, so plaster is well on the way to facing serious competition from — or being replaced by — the ubiquitous laser too.

Peter Kröger

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 10 June 1989)

Tip-toeing through the treetops (with electronic assistance)

Eight Tübingen biologists went on an expedition to the treetops of the tropical rain forest last year. Equipped with mountaineering gear, they probed a virtually unknown treetop world in the Amazon.

One of their destinations was the Rio Napo in Ecuador. The expedition took place in spring 1988. Its findings are still being evaluated.

But this treetop world seems likely to be inhabited by more species of animal life than are known to science.

Harvard zoologist Edward O. Wilson estimates their number at between 5m and 30m, or many more than the 1.4m species currently classified.

The treetop world of the tropical rain forest consists of several "storeys" in trees up to 60 metres (200ft) tall. Little is known about life up there.

Treetop research scientists don't need to climb trees to learn more about it. US zoologist Terry Erwin identified over 3,000 new species of insect by spraying the treetops with a narcotic that made insects plummet to the ground.

Fallen trees are also a revealing source of information, says Klaus Riede, head of a group of German scientists at Tübingen University department of biocybernetics.

He collaborated with French scientists in identifying a number of new varieties of locust found in fallen trees.

The Tübingen biologists' starting-point was a Quichua Indian village. Using local scouts, they set out on a quest for trees that might be suitable for use as observation platforms.

They preferred not to climb creepers. You never know what they are attached to, says Walter Junger, the expedition's chief mountaineer. Besides, they are used by a wide range of dangerous snakes and scorpions.

The team relied instead on sturdy ropes. Once they had climbed up a tree using ropes, they built a safe observation platform at a height of 22 metres (72ft).

Jungle sounds

Riede relied heavily on directional microphones and tape recorders to record the sound of the jungle by day and by night.

He is now using electronic analysis procedures to filter out individual sounds that are recorded on graphs for comparison with others.

When he identifies a new sound it is usually that of a new kind of insect. Members of the expedition also caught a number of previously unknown insects in traps. They are now being identified by zoologists in New York.

In the Costa Rican rain forest US zoologists have rigged nets along which scientists can move from one treetop to the next, but their German counterparts feel it is generally sufficient to use microphones, traps and unmanned cameras.

Zoologists only need to climb trees themselves to observe the behaviour of animal life in this tropical treetop world.

It includes a wide range of medicinal herbs and insects that kill tree pests.

But the tropical rain forest is vanishing fast — at an estimated rate of between 250,000 and 400,000 square kilometres (100,000 and 155,000 square miles) a year.

The entire surface area of the Federal Republic of Germany is less than 250,000 square kilometres.

Rainer B. Langen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 June 1989)

■ HORIZONS

Japanese Gemütlichkeit at the bar of the Limelight



From the outside, the Limelight looks like any other bar. Inside, it could be in Japan. But it isn't. It is in Charlottenstrasse in Düsseldorf.

It is full of Japanese. They sing. As best they can. Not together, but separately. The singer holds a microphone while the lyrics appear on a television screen to guide him or her.

The efforts are greeted with lusty applause. This is a Kara-oke bar. There are thousands of them in Tokyo — and two in Düsseldorf. The term means "without orchestra" in Japanese. Why is this one called Limelight? The beautiful Tomoko Ueno explains that if the Japanese characters for "come", "dream", "come" and "people" are spoken in succession, it sounds like "limelight".

In between, Tomoko plays the piano (she likes Bach). She has a catalogue with 1,500 old and new Japanese songs for customers to choose. There are also more than 100 popular western songs such as *Hey Paula, Yesterday*, and *Tennessee Waltz*. She says Germans customers mostly go for Beatles numbers.

Tomoko is a little sad that so few Germans do visit the bar. Almost only as guests of Japanese businessmen. She says: "And they need a bit of pushing when it is their turn to sing. I push." She laughs. "But when they actually do bring themselves to sing and discover how much fun it is, then you can't stop them."

A bottle of whisky sat on the bar in front of its owner, a bank manager. He says that many customers order bottles. A label with a number is hung round the bottle, which remains on the bar. "Every time I come here, I get a bottle and I drink it to the end." He enjoys it here.

There are about 7,000 Japanese in Düsseldorf and surrounds and 20,000 in the entire country. Apart from Britain, where there are 30,000, there are more Japanese in Germany than anywhere in Europe.

The centre of Japanese activity is the German-Japanese centre, an architecturally impressive office and shopping centre. Housed here are the Japanese consul-general, the Hotel Nikko, a branch of the Bank of Tokyo and the Japanese chamber of commerce and industry.

A trading firm called Marubeni had the complex built 11 years ago. The area was chosen because there were several Japanese restaurants which had opened in the 1960s. They include the Nippon-Kan, which has been there for 25 years — the first one to open.

A department-store chain, Mitsukoshi, has an outlet in the centre which sells everything that the Japanese like to take back home with them: porcelain from Meissen (in present-day East Germany); nutcrackers from the Erz Gebirge (a mountain range which runs from East Germany to Czechoslovakia), some small, others almost life-size; and, naturally, beer mugs.

Next door is Wing, a hairdresser's where, to the accompaniment of Japanese pop music, the women are coiffured in spick-and-span surroundings — the entire interior has been imported from Japan and is the most modern available. Wing is a Tokyo hairdresser's. The hairdressers themselves are all Japanese men. They all wear black trousers and white shirts with ties. One is Shidara Shinikiro. Like the others, he speaks only some broken German because he has been in the country for about a month. He is helped by his girlfriend, Sachiko Ito. She is at home here in Germany because she grew up here. Her father runs the restaurant Kikaku. Sachiko wears jeans and on her lapel is a button featuring a Japanese rock star called Higashi.

She says: "Wing in Tokyo sends young hairdressers to Germany for a year. Hardly any of the customers are German men. The German women try more often."

Nikko, as the hotel in the centre is named, is an abbreviated form of Japanese Airlines. The first Nikko hotel was opened in Paris in 1976. Public relations officer Heike Dähring says 30 per cent of the guests are Japanese. Among them are crews from Japan Airlines itself.

"Otherwise we are the same as any other International hotel. The staff is mixed. Staff from Japan are sent to us through the International Food Company, which is a subsidiary of JAL. They spend a minimum of two years here. The do it happily because they are able to travel around Europe in their spare time."

In the Club Aquamarin, Frau Kukuichi allows her weary body to undergo a shiatsu massage. Outside there is a banquet in a bonsai-style surroundings. Although the hotel is not decorated in traditional Japanese style, one of its three restaurants has tatami mats with low tables. But a compromise has been made. The tables are high enough for Europeans to get their legs under them so they can sit in the traditional (western) manner so they don't have to squat and get cramp in the legs.

The charm of the restaurants is especially appealing to Germans and Dutch people. Frau Dähring says the Japanese are mad about foods like smoked *Wurst*. Many eat out in the *Altstadt* where they can order *Eisbein* (pickled knuckle of pork).

A Greek who runs one *Lokal* favoured by Japanese is enthusiastic about them. "They take part in everything; *Karneval* included. Not long ago we had a German-Greek night and the Japanese were there."

The barman was amazed at the variety of drinks they drank, "grog, altbier, lager, spirits, orange juice, everything. But they never make a row and they don't fight." Neither, he said, did they attract xenophobia like the Turks.


At home in Düsseldorf, for a while anyway. (Photo: Bernd Ahrens)

There are now 324 Japanese firms in Düsseldorf. There are 13 Japanese restaurants in the city centre, 10 grocery shops and several book shops. It is planned to build a temple.

German businessmen, of course, have long been aware of the free-spending Japanese. One children's shop has show-window dummies with Asian faces; a fur shop has signs in Japanese as well as German; and a travel bureau has travel posters in Japanese.

There is, naturally, a Japanese school as well where about 540 pupils attended a welcoming party for 122 primers. Classes are up to the age of about 13. Seven-year-old Yoshima Izawa was chosen by her classmates to greet the newcomers. Then the school song is sung and the pupils go into the classrooms. The new ones are turned out spick and span by their mothers. The older ones are mostly in gymnshoes and jeans.

A Japanese school without a uniform. Yukata Okada, who teaches social studies and also runs the administration, laughs almost embarrassedly: "That looks so military. Many regard it as an anachronism. No, we don't want uniforms."

Mr Okada knows the school, the oldest Japanese school in Europe, better than anyone else. He was there when it was founded in 1971.

"The initiative came from Mr Arikawa, the head of the (Japanese) trade and industry chamber. Japanese firms started up a fund and the city of Düsseldorf made the land available. We are private and charge fees. The five members of the board are company managers. The education ministry in Tokyo pays staff costs and sends teachers out for three-year spells."

There are 36 full-time teachers, 32 from Japan. Two German nationals teach German. Syllabuses are drawn up in Japan.

Mr Okada especially enjoys the contact with the Germans. "We have a choir which sings at Christmas parties and at old people's homes. And naturally, we also take part in the big parade in Düsseldorf during *Karneval*."

There are sports meetings with other schools but there are problems because the Japanese school goes all day whereas German schools usually close at midday or one o'clock. That means by the time the Japanese children get home, German pupils are usually getting home after their sport. "The contact is therefore, limited, which is a pity." really is a great pity."

About 80 children a year finish the school — and therein lies a problem. There is no senior school to go on to. Mr Okada says that the question then arises if the mother should return with the child or children to Japan, thus separating the family.

Another alternative is for the child to attend a German *Gymnasium* during the week and go to special Japanese Saturday schools. There are now such schools in Cologne, Bonn, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Berlin and Munich. A third possibility is to send the child to a Japanese boarding school in Bremen or in Britain, France or Sweden. At the moment, about 60 per cent opt to return to Japan.

The general consul in Stuttgart, Noriaki Owaka, reckons that the problem will soon be overcome and that a Japanese upper school will be established in Düsseldorf. If that happened, he said, it would attract many more of his compatriots to Düsseldorf instead of, for instance, Frankfurt.

He said, in excellent German: "Up until the war when civil aviation was not so developed, most Japanese in Germany went to Hamburg. In the 1950s Japanese came here to learn from the Germans because the post-war reconstruction process, especially in heavy industry, was much more advanced than in Japan. In Düsseldorf, they were more-or-less at the window of the Ruhr. And that's the way it should remain."

Meanwhile, at one of the branch offices of Japan Inc it is still all action at the Limelight. A banker at the bar: "During the day we Japanese are reserved, but at night, we loosen up. After work, you have to sit together and have a drink. That's my sort of satisfaction." You could add that it's also a Japanese sort of *Gemütlichkeit*.

Franz Kadell
(Die Welt, Bonn, 10 June 1989)

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spotlight was on Pina Bausch's dance theatre, and two years ago in Stuttgart on the Grips-Theater from Berlin.

This time Rosamund Gilmore's Laokoon Group will present seven of her productions in the Kampnagelfabrik. This retrospective also includes an ITI symposium, "Dance Theatre of the Emotions."

There will also be a two-day symposium at the end of "Theater der Welt 89," at the beginning of July, dealing with theatre in the GDR.

The next "Theater der Welt" in 1991 will be staged in Essen in the Ruhr, a region where there are more theatres than anywhere else in the world.

After Essen the festival will be staged every three years.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 June 1989)

■ THE POPULATION

The two-child family has now become the ideal

Are the Germans and other Europeans gradually dying out? That might just be a question out of touch with reality except for the grim forecasts of the statisticians.

The population explosion is almost entirely restricted to developing countries. The latest German census reveals the reverse in this country.

The number of people in Germany has dropped from 58.2 million in 1970 to 56.9 million in 1987.

This should make us stop and think because over the same period the proportion of people below the age of 15 dropped from 23 to 15 per cent.

At the same time there was an increase in the number of people over 65 from 13 to 15 per cent of the population.

This much-quoted increase in the proportion of old people in society has become a problem. Newspaper headlines show the radical changes in population make-up and the economic and social consequences: a shortage of nurses to look after the elderly; pension schemes on the verge of collapse.

This is why the Europe section of the International Union of Family Associations has set out to investigate the causes of the decline in the birth rate in industrialised countries and after an analysis of results to formulate political demands and social concepts.

The question of the number of children people want to have and the number they actually do have was discussed at a conference at Bad Honnef.

According to Herbert Wolfram, president of the European Union of Family Associations, there is in almost every country in Europe "a conspicuous discrepancy between the number of children wanted by young couples and the number they actually have."

According to Herr Wolfram prime reason for the search for grounds for this is the results of a survey which showed that "in 1984 only two per cent of young couples in the Federal Republic were in favour of childlessness, but 13 per cent remained without children."

The survey also showed that although 64 per cent of couples believed the ideal family included two children, in fact only 35 per cent of young couples had two children.

These figures are not just valid for the western industrialised nations. They are also true of the countries in Eastern Europe.

This was confirmed by research done by Professor Wassilios Fthenakis, head of the state institute for educational theory and family research at Munich University, and Professor Andreás Klinger, head of Hungary's senior statistics authority.

There are a variety of reasons for the decline in the birth rate. According to Professor Klinger what scientists have lacked until now are long-term studies which monitor couples from when they marry and follow the couple and their children through.

The first results of spot-check surveys are now available. From these results couples can be divided into three categories, according to Professor Fthenakis:

- Couples who were childless on medical grounds;
- Couples who had planned never to have children;
- Couples who had temporarily planned not to have children.

The results of Professor Fthenakis's work show the many reasons why the desire for a large family has declined.

An important factor here is the "worth of a child." Children are no longer wanted "in a practical, economic sense." The emotional element is a much more decisive factor for wanting children.

The number of children in a family is no longer important. What is important is what parents are able to provide for the children they have.

Parents want fewer children so they can give them more, more of their time and more money, that is more affection and a better education.

According to Professor Fthenakis's survey more than 60 per cent of the people in Europe regard the "two-child family as ideal."

Here Herr Wolfram criticised the cost-benefit relationship. It was no longer right, he said, "Parents fundamentally must bear the costs for children, the beneits — the armed forces, employment, tax, welfare charges — are of universal benefit," he pointed out.

This view led Herr Wolfram to call for new family policies, "which did not leave the child outside on the threshold of life."

This involved primarily giving consideration to children in matters like traffic, home-building, work and welfare.

The Bonn government's approach to family policies, such as increasing child allowances, allowances for bringing up children and time off to look after them, were the first steps in the right direction, but not enough by far in Herr Wolfram's view.

Families with children should not be financially worse off than couples without children. The costs which arise from having children should be more fairly divided among all sectors of society. Herr Wolfram said that in this equation there was a third aspect which came into play, namely that of the working woman.

The income of families with several children was reduced because the woman temporarily or totally ceased to work.

Instead she carried out work, to all intents and purposes unpaid, which was important for society as a whole, work from which later the couples who "earned twice as much and had not brought up children" would also profit.

Professor Klinger and Professor Fthenakis were both of the view that women going out to work was an important reason for the decline in the birth rate.

The most common reasons given for why there were delays in getting married and having the first child were education and career.

Professor Fthenakis said that the vast majority of the women questioned said that they could only be good mothers when they no longer had to go out to work.

He commented: "But this concept of the mother's role stands in contradiction to the professional involvement of young women, since so many of them are in the 'temporary childless' category."

In the search for ways to increase the birth rate Professor Fthenakis, jokingly, recommended, "the abolition of collective retirement pension systems and, not as effective, a ban on education for women."

More seriously he concluded by saying: "Only different policies towards women can solve this problem. These policies must be aimed at orienting women towards career and family, and these must be seen from a long-term viewpoint."

Professor Fthenakis said that conditions should be created so that women who want to have children are able to do so and to do so without being put at a disadvantage in our society.

Patricia Andreae
(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 17 June 1989)

Call for TV to be banned for young children

Children of pre-school age should not be allowed to watch television, according to Horst-Werner Franke, Bremen's Education Senator.

He said television was responsible for "functional illiteracy". Introducing children to television early in their lives was defended by "a powerful lobby linked to industry and advertising."

Senator Franke appealed for parents, educational theorists, media experts and politicians to get together to demand another "culture for children", which offered more emphasised games and entertainment in the real world of their surroundings.

Children were exposed to many images and stimuli which they could not handle and which were deliberately misleading, at an age when their abilities to assimilate ideas and images were not yet developed.

Senator Franke said that his demand for a TV ban applied equally to the so-called good children's programmes.

He said that even 30 minutes of *Sesame Street* was too much stimulation for a four-year-old.

Primary school teachers have lots of experience of the "destruction of a child's imagination, alienation from reading and writing and a loss of the powers of concentration."

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yellow covered paperbacks) a project as sensitive and witty as *The Robbers* itself.

The Hamburg players acted as pupils at the military "Karlsschule" in Stuttgart, where Schiller, the son of an army office, was admitted in 1773.

They read from the playwright's biography how hard the drill was in this boarding school. What was read out was played out.

At night in the dormitory torches were switched on: one bits on reading *The Robbers*.

Firstly the yellow copies of the Reclam paperback of the play were handed round and then the parts given out.

In the military academy, where Schiller wrote in secret, his fans improvise in a performance of his play.

On the stage the lines were read out violently, artificially, pathetically. This simple collage was delightfully comic and completely successful.

But there were things to criticise, not as regards quality but on the jury's selection of plays.

The critics grumbled: "*The Robbers* and *Marat/Sade* — where are we then?" These were too difficult and too demanding. Young people should perform plays for young people.

A production of Fassbinder's *Blut am Hals der Katze*, performed by the "Triebtheater" from Ludwigshafen, put the lid on it. The critics said that this was not the kind of play for a youth drama festival.

Hans Chiout took this up and said: "Youth theatre is not theatre for young people but theatre by young people." In saying this he was echoing the views held by many of the young participants in the festival, particularly those who had consciously decided for a literary model and those who felt themselves to be criticised by the attacks on the jury.

A small group from the Gymnasium Carolinum from Osnabrück ventured to put on Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days*.

The pupils of the Werner von Siemens high school in Berlin featured the Czech writer Kafka in their collage *Kafkastrophen*.

The young people from Berlin aimed at making Kafka the man more comprehensible. A young girl said after the performance that she had fallen asleep.

But this could not have happened with the comic play for children *Kikerikiste* by the "Spunktheater" from Bergheim. This was first-class theatre clowning.

The play *Öyle Bir Sinif — So eine Klasse* dealt with the problems of young Turks living in the Federal Republic. It was performed by the German-Turkish Youth Drama Group from the adult education centre in Wedding, West Berlin.

The same theme was tackled in the play *Rüya — Ein Traum in Bildern*, performed by the Theater der Jugend from Munich.

The charming and smart performance from eight Turkish girls from Munich (the youngest at the festival) created real pleasure.

All participants were delighted by the performance of the handicapped from the rehibilitation centre in Neckargemünd.

The content of their play, *In Ohnmacht des Alltags*, was indeed immature and incoherent — there was the career woman and the computer freak, the neo-Nazi and the revolutionary, who spouted their dogmas alone on stage. But the actors performed their roles with considerable intensity and got round their handicaps marvellously.

The public was not particularly impressed with the musical *Ikaros*, by the "Zehndora" Group from the Copernicus Gymnasium in Rheine.

The group placed the legend of Daidalos and Ikaros in the present-day and packed far too much into the piece. Because the young people had to concentrate too much on the singing and dancing the acting quality had to suffer. Afterwards there were tears because of the criticisms made of the production.

The young people who were subject to criticism were annoyed that the pressure for performance spoiled the pleasure in performing.

No-one will dispute that Berlin's "Theatertreffen der Jugend" is important for youth theatre in the Federal Republic generally.

The event fulfilled what Essen theatre director Hansgünther Heyme said in his guest lecture: "Theatre is social work."

With passion Heyme said that acting and theatre should be a discipline taught in all schools in the Federal Republic. Berlin showed that this would be worthwhile.

Christine Dössel
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 10 June 1989)